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**History of Coventry**  
AND  
**GEOLOGY OF WARWICKSHIRE**

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FRANCIS WHITE & Co's.  
HISTORY & ANTIQUITIES  
OF  
*Coventry.*

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A GENERAL SURVEY OF THAT  
Ancient City and its Suburbs,  
FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD.

A CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF REMARKABLE EVENTS FROM  
THE ELEVENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT TIME.

AND A SPECIAL ARTICLE ON THE

*Geology of Warwickshire.*

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BY

FRANCIS WHITE & CO.,

AUTHORS OF THE "HISTORY AND DIRECTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE" AND SIMILAR  
WORKS FOR MANY OTHER COUNTIES.

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PRICE: THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

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*Price of the County Work 29/- in Cloth, or 31/6 in Half Calf.*

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FRANCIS WHITE & CO., BROOMHALL TERRACE, 164, ECCLESALL ROAD.  
MDCCCLXXIV.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

## PREFACE.

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*In* compliance with the expressed wish of many of their Subscribers and the public, the Authors have issued in a separate form the HISTORY OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY and the SKETCH OF THE GEOLOGY OF WARWICKSHIRE, specially prepared for their NEW and THIRD Edition of the HISTORY AND DIRECTORY OF WARWICKSHIRE, 1874. Neither labour nor expense have been spared to render the work as complete as possible. The information has been principally obtained and corrected by personal inquiry, and every precaution taken to avoid errors. The matter has been revised to the time of publication, and to a great extent re-written.

The Authors have to tender their grateful thanks and acknowledgments to Mr. W. G. Fretton, of Little Park-street, Coventry, also to the Clergy and other gentlemen, for much valuable information relative to the History and Antiquities of the City of Coventry.

An important feature of the work is the SKETCH OF THE GEOLOGY OF WARWICKSHIRE. The Authors trust that this will be found a useful and valuable addition to the work. The portion from the Trias to the Drift is in a great part based on information furnished by the Rev. P. B. Brodie, M.A., F.G.S., of Rowington, Warwick, to whom the Authors tender their grateful thanks and acknowledgements.

Broomhall Terrace, 164, Ecclesall Road,  
Sheffield.

August, 1874.



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SHEFFIELD :

PAWSON AND BRAILSFORD, PRINTERS,

MULBERRY STREET.

## CORRIGENDA AND ADDENDA.

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- Page.  
 21, line 1. For "Jems Bell" read "Jesus Bell."  
 24, ,, 7. For "1641" read "1642."  
 25, 1734. For "Wildley" read "Wildey."  
 25, 1741. The name of the "*Mercury*" was changed to that of the "*Standard*" in 1836.  
 26, 1751. For "Fairfield's" read "Fairfax's." Page 86: Mr. Thos. Bassett having resigned the mastership of this School, Mr. J. Hopkins, late of London, has been appointed  
 32, 1810, line 4. For "Hannah" read "Harnall."  
 79, 3rd par., last line. Rev. Henry Cross has left. Pastorate vacant. He preached his farewell sermon on Sunday, 29th March, 1874.  
 91. *South Street Board School*. — Master, Mr. William Turrell; mistress, Mrs. A. M. Watts; Infant mistress, Mrs. A. Parker.  
 103. For "Britannia Theatre of Varieties" read "Victoria Theatre."

### EVENTS.

- After 1874, Jan. 23, add the following :—  
 1874, Apl. 14. The new Church of St. Thomas, Longford, consecrated by the Bishop of Worcester.  
 ,, ,, 30. The new Sewage Works on Whitley Common opened.  
 ,, May The celebrated picture of Lady Godiva, by the late Sir E. Landseer, purchased by H. W. Eaton, Esq., M.P. for Coventry, for £3,200.  
 ,, May 14. St. Paul's Church, Leamington, licensed and opened by the Bishop of Worcester. The collection at the opening service realised £104.

### DIRECTORS OF THE POOR.

The first election of the Guardians of the Poor under the new arrangements took place on the 6th and 7th of April, 1874, when the following gentlemen were re-elected :—

#### *St. Michael's Parish.*

J. Lenton	J. E. Breward.
G. Lloyd.	J. B. Lamb.
J. Kendrick.	A. Maddocks.
J. Ward.	T. L. Gillott.
H. Price	G. Turton.

#### *Holy Trinity Parish.*

J. Walker.	L. S. Booth.
T. Bailey.	G. H. Lester.
E. Adkins.	C. H. Pattison.
W.P. Collingbourne	M. Makepeace.
D. Gardner.	R. Croydon.

Mr. J. Walker was subsequently appointed Chairman, and Mr. J. Lenton Vice-Chairman.

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NOTE.—Since printing the History of Coventry, we have received the following information respecting Radford Church, which is mentioned at page 71 :—The new Church, which is now being erected at Radford will be a Chapel of Ease to Holy Trinity, Coventry, and is expected to be completed in August, 1874. It will be a neat edifice of stone in the Early English style, erected at a cost of about £2,500, which is to be defrayed by subscription and grants from the Coventry Church Extension Society and the Incorporated Society for Building Churches. The interior will be neatly fitted up with open seats to accommodate 400 persons. The district of Radford has long required a Church. We believe a Church anciently existed here, of which there is not a fragment now remaining.



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# HISTORY

OF THE

## City of Coventry.

---

COVENTRY is an ancient city, Municipal and Parliamentary Borough, in the Kirby Division of the Knightlow Hundred, Northern Division of the County, for which it is a polling place, and Rural Deanery and Archdeaconry of Coventry, and Diocese of Worcester, 10 miles N.E. from Warwick, 18 miles S.E. from Birmingham, 8 miles S.W. by S. from Nuneaton, 5 miles N. by E. from Kenilworth, and 91 miles N.N.W. from London. It is on the turnpike road leading to Holyhead, from which it is distant 169 miles, and comprises the parishes of St. Michael, with St. John the Baptist; and Holy Trinity, together with the vicarial districts of St. Peter, St. Thomas, St. Mark, and All Saints. The curacy of Christ Church belongs to the Vicarage of St. Michael. The parish of St. Michael, with St. John the Baptist, contains 3,320 acres of land. The gross estimated rental is £73,500, and the rateable value is £62,541. In 1871, St. Michael's parish contained 7,044 inhabitants; St. John's contained 4,947. The parish of Holy Trinity, with St. Peter's, contains 1,600 acres of land. The gross estimated rental of Holy Trinity parish is £61,426 0s. 6d.; rateable value, £51,863 15s. In 1871, there were, in Trinity parish, 7,185 inhabitants; St. Peter's, 6,544; St. Thomas', 1,624; St. Mark's, 4,090; and All Saint's, 4,561. In 1851, the city of Coventry contained 7,078 inhabited houses, 151 uninhabited, and 111 were building; within the limits of its **Municipal** and local boundary,



36,208 inhabitants; and within the limits of its Parliamentary boundary, 36,813 inhabitants. Of the last number, 17,644 were males and 19,169 females. In 1861, it contained within the limits of its Municipal and local boundary, 40,937 inhabitants; and within the limits of its Parliamentary boundary, 41,647 inhabitants. In 1871, it contained within the limits of its Municipal and local boundary, 8,535 inhabited houses and 37,670 inhabitants; and within the limits of its Parliamentary boundary, 9,334 inhabited houses and 41,348 inhabitants.

ANCIENT HISTORY.—In ancient records this place is called *Coventre*, and also *Coventria*, from the foundation of a convent of which St. Osburg (who lived in the seventh century), was Abbess, which was burnt by Edric, the traitor, who, having invaded Mercia, in 1016, destroyed many towns in Warwickshire. This, with the British affix “*tre*,” indicates that it was a convent town, and such indeed was the case. On the site of this convent, Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his Countess, Godiva, about the year 1043, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, erected a monastery, which they munificently endowed, and decorated with a profusion of costly ornaments, that, according to William of Malmesbury, its walls were covered with gold and silver. At this time, Earl Leofric, being incensed against the inhabitants of the city of Coventry, he laid upon them heavy taxes, and they owe their relief to the noble Countess Godiva, whose name will be honoured as long as the city shall endure. The Countess undertook to intercede for their relief, and often and earnestly besought her lord to “take the tax away.” But she was apparently frustrated in her suit; and tradition informs us that he made what he probably supposed to be an impossible condition, viz.: that only would he free the city from its evil taxations on condition of her riding naked through the city on horseback. It is further recorded in the traditionary legends of the city, that, taking her husband at his word, no doubt to his great surprise, and trusting for concealment to the length of her hair, and to the discretion of the inhabitants, who were ordered, upon pain of death, to shut themselves up in their houses, “then she rode forth,” attired in nought save her

rich flowing tresses, and "took the tax away." She obtained for the city a charter of "freedom from servitude, evil customs, and exactions" in these words—

"I, Luriche, for love of thee,  
Do make Coventre toll free."

It was commemorated in the south window of Holy Trinity Church by portraits of the Earl and Countess, and a poetical legend. Some fragments, however, of the stained glass now only remain. In the time of Charles II. another character appears to have been introduced, it being recorded that a tailor, who afterwards obtained the name of "Peeping Tom," basely and wilfully bored a hole through his shutters, in order that he might have a peep at the charitable lady as she passed, thereby disobeying the injunction, for which he was instantly struck blind—"his eyes dropping out of his wicked head, was a very natural consequence of his indiscretion; and it is a matter for future historians to determine whether the name of Godiva or Peeping Tom will last longest." Camden says she was seen by no one, and historians appear to make no mention of "Peeping Tom," not even Dugdale; so that we may infer that he owes his existence to the time when the commemorative procession of Lady Godiva's was first established, in the reign of Charles II., probably when it was deemed expedient to add another attraction to the procession in the form of the base "Peeping Tom." A figure called "Peeping Tom," carved in oak, representing a man in armour, and placed in a niche at the corner of a house situate at the angle of Hertford and Smithford streets, is still preserved in memory of this event, which, whether real or fictitious, is closely interwoven with the history of the place. The figure formerly occupied a place at the N.W. corner of Grey Friars' lane, but was removed to the place it now occupies, when the old houses at the corner of this lane were taken down to widen the entrance to Broadgate.

Leofric died in 1057, and was interred in the porch of the church of the monastery which he had founded. This monastery was in the 12th century raised to the rank of Cathedral, an honour which it did not retain for many years. The Prior held the



position of a mitred abbot and sat in Parliament as a spiritual peer. At its dissolution, its revenue was £731 19s. 5d. There are a few remains of the foundation now standing in front of the Girls' Blue Coat School, which will also be found noticed before the Church of St. Michael, in this city. Shortly after the Norman Conquest, the lordship of Coventry became vested in the Earls of Chester, by marriage with the grand-daughter of Leofric. In the contest between Stephen and the Empress Matilda, the Earl of Chester taking part with the latter, his Castle of Coventry was occupied by the king's forces. The Earl besieged it, but the King came in person to its relief, and repulsed the Earl after an obstinate conflict. In 1141, Robert Marmion, the inveterate enemy of the Earl of Chester, took possession of this monastery, from which he expelled the monks, fortified the church, and cut deep trenches in the adjoining fields, concealing them only with a slight covering. On the Earl's approach to dislodge him, Marmion drew out his forces, but, forgetting the exact situation of the trenches, his horse fell with him to the ground, and in this situation his head was severed from his body by a private soldier. In 1355, the city was surrounded with walls, three miles in circuit, and averaging three yards in thickness and six yards in height, strengthened with thirty-two towers, and containing twelve principal gates, viz. :—New gate, Gosford gate, Mill lane, or Bastile gate; Cook street gate, Bishop gate, Well-street gate, Hill-street gate, Spon gate, Grey-Friars' gate, Cheylesmore gate, Little Park-street gate, and Swanswell gate, each defended by a portcullis. These massive ramparts were raised in accordance with a license granted to the citizens in the reign of Edward III. and their erection extended over a period of forty years. They were kept in good repair for nearly 300 years. Some idea may be formed of the security they afforded to the city, by the defiance returned on the part of the inhabitants to the mandates of Edward IV. and Charles I., when those monarchs appeared before the gates with armed forces.

In 1397, Richard II. appointed this town for the decision, by single combat, of the quarrel between the Dukes of Hereford and Norfolk; and magnificent preparations were made on Gosford Green for this encounter, which, however, was prevented by the



banishment of the combatants, a measure which ultimately caused the deposition of the king. In 1404, the Duke of Hereford, who had become Duke of Lancaster by the death of his father, John of Gaunt, on his return from exile, having succeeded to the crown by the title of Henry IV., held a Parliament here in the great chamber of the Priory, which, from its inveteracy to the clergy, was called *Parliamentum Indocorum*, whence it was also called the *Laymen's* Parliament. In 1411, the Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry V., was arrested at the Priory by John Horneby, mayor of the city, probably for some tumultuous excess, the particulars of which are not recorded. The city, with the following parishes and hamlets, viz.: Radford, Keresley, Foleshill, Exhall, Anstey, Wyken, Stoke, and part of Sowe, were severed from the county of Warwick, and created a county of itself, under the designation of the "City and County of the City of Coventry," by charter of Henry VI., in 1451, and so continued, except for a short period, till after the passing of the Municipal Reform Act in 1835, and the Amendment Act of a subsequent year. Upon these acts, a legal question arose as to the boundary, or interpretation to be given to the term "City of Coventry," as used in those Acts; which led to a protracted law suit between the corporation and certain influential residents in some of the hamlets and villages above-named, it being contended by the former that such term included the city of Coventry, with its county, while the opponents of the corporation held the reverse. The contest on this question continued for several years, the decision upon it being come to by the Judges in the Court of Exchequer, by the delivery of judgment, on the 7th of July, 1842, the corporation being non-suited. This decision breaking up the ancient boundary, the corporation resolved to petition the Secretary of State, praying that a bill might be brought before Parliament immediately, to incorporate Coventry with the county of Warwick. Accordingly an Act to that effect was promptly passed, and received the royal assent, and came in operation November 9, 1842.

In 1459, Henry VI. held a Parliament in the Chapter House of the Priory, which, from the number of attainders against the Duke of York and others, was, by the

Yorkists, called *Parliamentum Diabolicum*. In 1465, Edward IV. and his queen kept the festival of Christmas at Coventry; and three years after the Earl of Rivers and his son, who had been seized by a party of northern rebels at Grafton, were beheaded on Gosford green. In the war between the houses of York and Lancaster, Richard, Earl of Warwick, marched with all his ordnance and warlike stores into this city, where he remained for a short time; during which Edward IV., on his route from Leicester, attempted to force an entrance, but, being repulsed, he passed on to Warwick, and thence to London, where, having gained a battle, in which the Earl of Warwick was slain, he returned to Coventry, and deprived the citizens of their charter; for the restoration of which they were compelled to pay a fine of five hundred marks. In 1472, severe enactments were passed by the magistrates against women of immoral character, who were publicly exhibited in the carts on the market days. Henry VII., on his route from Bosworth field, in 1485, was received here with every demonstration of congratulation and respect. In the early part of the sixteenth century, Coventry became the theatre of religious persecution; the Bishop of Chester, coming to examine the persons accused of heresy, condemned seven to the stake, which sentence was executed in the Little Park. In 1554, Mr. Hopkins, sheriff for the city, was confined in the Fleet prison, on a charge of heresy, but was liberated after great intercession, and fled the kingdom; and in the following year, Mr. Laurence Saunders, Robert Glover, A.M., and Cornelius Bongay, were burnt for their religious tenets. In 1565, Queen Elizabeth visited the city; and in 1569, Mary, Queen of Scots, was conducted to this place, where she was detained a prisoner; and on her removal from Tutbury Castle, she was for some time at the Bull Inn, in the custody of the Earls of Shrewsbury and Huntingdon. In 1607 the city suffered considerable damage from an inundation, which entered two hundred and fifty-seven houses, washing away furniture and utensils of various kinds. The flood arose to the height of three yards, and, after remaining three or four hours, suddenly subsided. Clusters of white snails were afterwards found in the houses and in the trees, supposed to have collected prior to the influx of the water, which, though observed at the distance of nearly a mile



from the town, was so rapid in its approach as to preclude all means of precaution. King James, attended by a large retinue of the nobility, visited the city in 1617; on which occasion a cup of pure gold, weighing forty-five ounces, and containing £100, was presented to him by the corporation, which his majesty ordered to be preserved with the royal plate for the heirs of the crown. During the Parliamentary war, Charles I., having erected his standard at Nottingham, in 1641, sent orders to the mayor and sheriffs of Coventry to attend him at that place; but the majority of the citizens embraced the cause of the Parliament; and a party having obtained possession of the magazine in Spon tower, which the Earl of Northampton had directed the alderman to secure for the royalists, kept it for Lord Brooke, who removed it to Warwick Castle. The Parliamentarian party in the city, having been reinforced with four hundred men from Birmingham, held it against the king, who sent a herald to demand entrance, which being refused, some cannon were planted in the great park and on Stivichall Hill, which played upon the town but without effect. Finding the citizens resolved to defend their gates, and learning that Lord Brooke was approaching with his army from London, the King drew off his forces, and the city was now regularly garrisoned by the Parliament, and further preparations made for its defence. The women were employed to fill up the quarries in the park, that they might not afford any shelter to the royal troops; and for this purpose they assembled in companies by beat of drum, and marched in military array, with mattocks and spades, headed by an amazon who carried a herculean club on her shoulder, and conducted from their work by another who discharged a pistol as a signal of dismissal. On the restoration of Charles II., that monarch was proclaimed by the mayor and aldermen, attended by a vast concourse of the inhabitants, with the most triumphant acclamation. The greatest rejoicings took place, and the public conduits of the city were made to flow with wine; a deputation was sent to present him with a basin and ewer, and fifty pieces of gold, and to surrender all the king's lands. In 1662 the Earl of Northampton, with a large retinue of the neighbouring gentry and a detachment of the county troops, was sent with a commission from the king to make a breach in the walls as a punish-



ment to the inhabitants for shutting their gates against his father ; but the Earl so far exceeded the limits of his commission as to leave only a few fragments of them remaining. Of the gates, which were only dismantled, there are two of the inferior yet standing, viz., Cook-street and Chantry-place. A piece of the wall may be seen at the back of the premises at and near the Royal Sailor Inn, Upper Well-street, as also near King-street, Chantry-place, Gosford-street, and Park side ; on this latter portion may be noticed a number of arrow marks. It was near this spot that a number of martyrs in the Marian and previous persecution were burnt.

Near Christ Church stood the ancient manor house of *Cheylesmore*, which superseded the castle of the Earl of Chester, and was afterwards the occasional residence of Edward, the Black Prince, who on his coming to Coventry was made a brother of the different guilds. Only the slightest vestiges of this ancient domain now remain, which are included in modern residences. The most remarkable portion is an old archway, which is supposed to have formed the entrance to the tilt yard. The park extended south-eastwards from the manor house. The Greyfriars gate stood a little westward, and was said to be the finest of the ancient gates ; it formed the entrance to Coventry from the south. One of the old city manuscripts says, that in 1422 “ a dooke stool (ducking pond) was made upon Cheylesmore Green to punish scolders and chiders as ye law wills.” Coventry Park is now the property of H. W. Eaton, Esq., M.P., by whom it has been purchased from the Marquis of Hertford ; it contains about 600 acres, which are let off in garden allotments, and small farms.

MONASTERIES.—Besides the monastery of St. Osburg there were several others, namely : the *Grey Friars*, situated on the site of the present Christ Church, the brethren of which were famous for the representation of religious dramas. It was originally founded in 1234, and the church built in 1358, for which Edward, the Black Prince, granted the friars permission to take stone from the quarries in his park at Cheylesmore. The monastery was destroyed at the dissolution, its only remains being the very beautiful steeple of Christ Church, consisting of an octagonal tower, with a pierced parapet, from which rises a lofty and finely proportioned octagonal

spire. After the destruction of the monastery, centuries ago, the steeple stood alone until the erection of the present church, serving as a land mark to the inhabitants of the surrounding country.

The ancient CARMELITE, or White Friar's Monastery, was situated at the head of Much Park-street, just within the city walls, and near New-gate. It was founded in 1342 by Sir John Poultney, on a site of land granted by William de Engleton. There are extensive and interesting remains of this once important religious house still standing, which are incorporated with the present Union Workhouse. They consist of the east wing of the cloisters, which are surmounted by the ancient dormitory. In the centre of the building stands the entrance to the chapter-house, and on each side of this is a long vaulted room. The gateway, leading to the cloisters, stands on the opposite side, and remains of the north and south wings are yet standing. The ancient church was situated on the north side and was detached from the main building. In the garden are yet to be discovered remains of its foundation. In December, 1873, some of the inmates of the workhouse, in the course of making some excavations in the garden for stone, discovered a portion of the remains of the church, on which were found two human skeletons (male and female) lying side by side, with their heads turned to the west. This discovery will be found fully recorded in our "Chronology of Remarkable Events." We have no doubt that if these excavations had been continued, some interesting remains of the foundations of the church would have been discovered which might have thrown some light on its plan and extent. The bodies were re-interred in the cemetery. John Hales, the Founder of the Grammar School, commenced his school in this church, and in consequence of some law proceedings which he had with the Corporation, who were the owners of the site of the church, he removed his school to the present building in Hales-street. The outer-gate of this monastery is still standing on the east side of Much Park-street, and forms the entrance to White Friars'-lane.

In 1381, William, Lord Zouch, founded a house of CARTHUSIANS, which afterwards obtained the name of the *Charter House*. The only portion now remaining comprises a portion of the outer



wall, the bridge, and some fragments, now incorporated with the present structure known as the *Charter House*. This monastery of St. Ann, with the rest of the monasteries of Coventry, except the Grey Friars, is situated on the banks of the Sherbourne.

PILGRIMS' REST.—On a corner stone of the building now called the Pilgrim Inn, in Ironmonger-row, is the following inscription :—  
 “ Upon this site stood the large and very Ancient Edifice called THE PILGRIMS REST. It was supposed to have been the Hostel or Inn for the Maintenance and Entertainment of the Palmers and other Visitors to the Priory of Benedictine Monks which stood to near the Eastward. It became ruinous, and was taken down A.D. M.D.CCCXX., when this house was erected.”

CHAPELS.—Besides the monasteries and churches, Coventry anciently possessed the following chapels, viz. :—St. James', formerly attached to the Lepers' Hospital, near Spon-end, founded by Kiveliok, Earl of Chester ; St. Nicholas', on the north side of the city ; St. Mary Magdalen, from which Chapelfields derives its name, the chapel being situated in that locality ; St. George's on Gosford Bridge ; and St. Margaret's, with a hermitage, on Gosford Green. There were others in the locality, but some of their sites are unknown.

RELIGIOUS DRAMAS.—During the middle ages, Coventry was much celebrated for the wealth and importance of its numerous religious and secular guilds. The mysteries or sacred plays chiefly originated through the influence of the religious guilds. The plays were produced upon moveable stages drawn through the main streets of the city, the subjects represented being selected from the events recorded in Holy Writ. These exhibitions generally took place on the festival of *Corpus Christi*. In addition to these plays, there was the old Coventry Play of *Hock Tuesday*, founded on the massacre of the Danes, together with pageants performed specially on the visits of royal personages and others. This play was performed before Queen Elizabeth in 1575 at Kenilworth Castle. A part of the expenses attending these representations was defrayed by the guilds, who, no doubt, derived some interest or benefit therefrom.



## EARLS OF COVENTRY.

The present family is derived from John Coventry, a wealthy mercer of London, of which city he was Sheriff and Mayor in 1416 and 1425. His grand-son Thomas (Attorney-General in 1621), was elevated to the peerage as Baron Coventry of Aylesborough, Worcestershire, April 16, 1628. His grandson, Sir John Coventry, was the same who was attacked by the courtiers of Charles II., Dec. 21, 1670, out of which originated the celebrated "Coventry Act." Thomas of Snitterfield (5th Lord) was created Viscount Deerhouse and Earl of Coventry April 26th, 1697. George William, the eighth Earl, was born Oct. 16th, 1784, and succeeded his father on March 26th, 1831. He married, Jan. 1st, 1808, Lady Emma Susannah, of the first Earl of Beauchamp; she died in 1810, leaving issue only one son, who died 1838. He married secondly, Nov. 6th, 1811, Lady Mary, daughter of the sixth Duke of St. Alban's, and died May 15th, 1843, leaving issue two sons and one daughter. Her ladyship survived him two years. He was Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire. The present Earl, GEORGE WILLIAM, ninth of the title, was grandson of the eighth, and was born 9th May, 1838. He succeeded his grandfather on his death, in 1843, and was educated at Eton, and Christ Church, Oxford. He is a Deputy-Lieutenant of Worcestershire; married in 1865, Blanche, daughter of the second Earl of Craven, and has issue living, four sons and one daughter, viz.: George William, Viscount Deerpurth, born 1865; Charles John, born 1867; Henry Thomas, born 1868; Reginald William, born 1869; daughter, born 1870. He has one sister living, viz., Maria Emma Catherine; married 1858 (Ponsonby). He is the patron of six livings, viz.:—Croome d'Abitot, R. Flyford Grafton, R. Stoke Severn, R. Powick, R. Worcestershire Oxenton, V. Woolstone, R. Gloucestershire.

ARMS.—Sable: a fesse, ermine, between three crescents, or: CREST—A cock, gules, comb, wattles, and legs, or, standing on a garb, fesswise, or: SUPPORTERS—Two eagles, wings expanded and inverted, argent, beaked and membered, or—

MOTTO—Candide et constanter.

“Candidly and steadily.”

FAMILY SEAT.—*Croome Court, Severnstoke, Worcestershire.*

CLUBS.—CARLTON AND WHITE'S.

It will be at once seen that there is no connection between the old Earls of Mercia and the present family.

### EMINENT MEN, NATIVES OF COVENTRY.

Amongst the persons of eminence to whom Coventry has given birth in days gone by, we may mention

VINCENT OF COVENTRY, who lived in the early part of the 13th century, and was distinguished as being the first of the *Franciscans* who applied himself to academical studies. He was educated at Cambridge, where he became a public professor, wrote an exposition of the Mass and other theological works.

WILLIAM MAKLESFIELD was a native of Coventry. He was an accomplished scholar in his day, and was governor of the order of *Dominicans*.

JOHN BIRD was educated as a *Carmelite* at Oxford, and subsequently became head and last provincial of his order. His obsequiousness to Henry the 8th, by preaching against the Pope's primacy, obtained for him in succession the bishoprics of Bangor and Chester; but yielding further to the pursuit of personal interest and aggrandisement, he again became an instrument of the papacy in the reign of Queen Mary.

JOHN GRANT was a native of Coventry, whom it is better to describe as notorious rather than celebrated. He was executed in London in 1606 as a conspirator, after having been tried for stealing horses out of the stables of several gentlemen in this neighbourhood, for the purpose of carrying off the Princess Elizabeth when on a visit to Lord Harrington's at Coombe Abbey.

HUMPHREY WANLEY, the son of Nathaniel Wanley, Vicar of Trinity Church, and born about 1672, was distinguished as a scholar and antiquary, though in his youth he had been put to a mechanical trade. He was sent to St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, and afterwards appointed librarian to the Earl of Oxford. At the desire of Dr. Hickes he made a tour of England in search of Anglo-Saxon MSS., of which he prepared a catalogue.

JOHN TIPPER, the original publisher of the *Ladies' Diary*, which



commenced in 1704, was also a native of Coventry, and master of the Bablake School.

### CHRONOLOGY OF REMARKABLE EVENTS IN THE CITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

1016.—The St. Osburg Nunnery was destroyed by Edric the Traitor, who in that year invaded Mercia, and destroyed many towns therein.

1043.—About this period Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his Countess Godiva, founded the Great Monastery in Coventry.

1057.—Leofric, Earl of Mercia, died. The Countess Godiva died some years afterwards, and both of them were buried in the church porch belonging to the monastery which they had founded.

1218.—The charter for a yearly fair to continue eight days was granted by Henry III.

1344.—By virtue of letters patent, granted by King Edward III., a Municipal Corporation, consisting of mayor and bailiffs was constituted in Coventry. The name of the first mayor was John Ward, chosen in 1348.

1349.—A great rain from Christmas to midsummer; not a day but it rained somewhat.

1350.—Great pestilence in this city and throughout the realm; scarcely a tenth person left in some instances to bury the dead.

1360.—A great wind which blew down steeples, high houses, and trees. The city MS. annals say that “Divelles weare seene in mens likenesse and spake to men as they travilled.”

1370.—The commons of Coventry first rose.

1379.—In this year a bushel of wheat was sold for 6d., a gallon of white wine for 6d., and a gallon of red wine for 4d.

1380.—John Ball, a seditious priest, taken at Coventry and hanged at St. Alban's.

1387.—The commons threw loaves of bread at the mayor's head in St. Mary's Hall.

Sept., 1397.—In the reign of Richard II., the preliminaries and “note of preparation” took place for a single combat, to be fought on Gosford Green, between the Duke of Hereford, afterwards Henry IV., and the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray. The



former, it was said, betrayed a private conversation in which Mowbray is represented to have used several expressions of a treasonable nature. The accusation was denied, and Mowbray demanded the privilege of acquitting himself by single combat. Each of the dukes, agreeably to the laws of chivalry, threw down his glove which was taken up and sealed before the King, a circumstance which was supposed to prevent all future denial of the challenge. The King appointed Coventry for the place of combat, and caused a vast and magnificent theatre to be erected for that purpose on Gosford Green. The rival dukes made every requisite preparation, and particularly in the essential articles of armour, which, in those days, was uncommonly splendid and expensive, usually inlaid with gold and silver, and ornamented with most elegant figures and devices. The combatants placed their reliance totally on the skill of the armourer, and cleared themselves by oath from holding any commerce with incantations, or rendering their armour or bodies invulnerable by any charm. Be their cause ever so bad they must determine to die like good Christians, and they, therefore, disavowed all dependence on the power of Satan, and supplicated the prayers of all pious spectators :—

“Add proof unto my armour with thy prayers,  
And with thy blessings steel my lance’s point.”

Henry, Duke of Hereford, advanced from Baginton Castle towards the place appointed, upon his white courser, barded with blue and green velvet, beautifully embroidered with swans and antelopes, and armed at all points. Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, set out from Caludon Castle, on a horse barded with crimson velvet, and embroidered with lions of silver and mulberry leaves alluding to the name Mowbray—mulberry.

“At the time appointed, the King came to Coventry,” says Hollinshead, “in great arraie, accompanied with the lords and gentlemen of their linages. The Duke of Hereford armed himself in his tent that was set up neere to the lists ; and the Duke of Norfolk put on his armour betwixt the gate and the barrier of the town, in a beautiful house, having a fair perclois of wood towards the gate that none might see what was done within the house.

“ The Duke of Aumarle that dai being High Constable of England, and the Duke of Surrie, Marshall, placed themselves betwixt them, well armed and appointed. About the hour of prime the Duke of Hereford came to the barriers of the lists on a white courser. The constable and marshall came and demanded of him what he was ? He answered—‘ I am Henrie of Lancaster, Duke of Hereford, which am come hither to doo mine endeavour against Thomas Mowbraie, Duke of Norfolk, as a traitor.’ Then incontinentlie he sware upon the Holie Evangelists that his quarrell was true and just. Then putting down his vizor he descended from his horse, and, with speare in hand, set him down in a chaire of green velvet at the end of the lists, and there reposed himselfe abiding the coming of his adversarie.

“ Soone after him entered into the field, with great triumph, King Richard, accompanied with all the peeres of the realme, and above ten thousand men in armour, least some fraie or tumult might rise amongst his nobles.

“ The Duke of Norfolke hovered on horseback at the entrance of the lists ; and when he had made his oath before the constable that his quarrell was just, he entered the field manfullie, saieing aloud, ‘ God aid him that hath the right,’ and then he departed from his horse and sate himself downe in his chaire, which was of crimson velvet. The Lord Marshall viewed their speares to see that they were of equal length. Then the herald proclaimed that the traverses and chaires should be removed, commanding them to mount on horsebacke and addresse themselves to the battell and combat.

“ The Duke of Hereford was quicklie horsed, and closed his bavier, and cast his speare into the rest ; and when the trumpet sounded, set forward couragiouslie towards his opponent six or seven pases. The Duke of Norfolke was not fullie set forward, when the king cast down his warder, and the Heralds cried ‘ Ho, ho.’ Then the king caused their speares to be taken from them, and commanded them to repaire againe to their chairs, where they remained two long houres, while the King and his counsell deliberatlie consulted what order was best to be had in so weightie a cause.”

The result of this deliberation was to prohibit the combat, together with a sentence against the Duke of Hereford to depart the



realm, and not to return again for the term of ten years; and that the Duke of Norfolk, because he had sown sedition, should depart the realm for life. The term of Hereford's banishment was subsequently mitigated to six years.

1404 Henry IV. held a Parliament in the great chamber of the Priory, in this city, at which no lawyer was suffered to be present. It was styled *Parliamentum Indocorum*, from its inveteracy to the clergy, whence it was also called the *Laymen's Parliament*.

1406. John Botoner, the mayor, caused the streets of Coventry to be paved.

1411. John Horneby, the mayor, arrested the Prince (afterwards Henry V.) at the Priory, in this city.

1413. St. Mary's Hall, the present building, erected.

1414. St. George's Chapel, Gosford Bridge, founded by Laurence Cook, mayor.

1422. The first cross was built in Cross Cheaping. In the same year, according to one of the old city manuscripts, "A dooke stool (ducking pond) was made upon Cheylesmore Green, to punish scolders and chiders, as ye law wills."

1423. The city waits, or minstrels, were appointed. They were four in number, and wore a livery and silver chains and badges, indicative of their office; they played at different seasons of the year about midnight. The custom continued until the end of last century, and the only trace left is the practice still maintained near Christmas, when a few musicians may still be heard in the dead of the night, and whose services are recognised by voluntary contributions.

1429. Bells were first hung in St. Michael's steeple.

1436. King Henry VI. came to Coventry, and kept Christmas at Kenilworth.

1446. John Heires and William Lingham were hanged for robbing St. Mary's Hall. In the same year a bishop was installed in Coventry.

1447. The custom of riding the liberties began.

1450. Henry VI. heard a mass in St. Michael's Church, and presented a golden cloth.

1451. The same king granted the charter, constituting this city a county and giving other privileges.



1453. King Henry and Queen Margaret came to Coventry and slept at the Priory.

1459. Another Parliament was held at the Priory by Henry VI., which was called *Parliamentum Diabolicum*, on account of the multitude of attainders passed against Richard Duke of York and others

1465. Edward IV. and his Queen kept Christmas here.

1468. The Earl of Rivers and his son were beheaded on Gosford Green.

1469. One Elipane was beheaded, and his head set on a pole on Bablake gate.

1470. Edward IV, refused admittance to the city at Gosford gate.

1471. The leaders of an insurrection in London were beheaded in Coventry.

1472 and 1491. Acts of Leet were passed against "common women."

1474. Prince Edward for the first time came to the City, and was presented with a cup and £100.

1477. Prince Edward again came to Coventry, and was made a brother of different Guilds. He kept his Court at Cheylesmore. The same year the custom of riding the liberties of the city was introduced.

1478. 3,000 persons died of pestilence in the city and county of Coventry.

1480. There was a tumult amongst the commons of this city. They rang the common bell, broke down Briscoe's close, which had been for some time before enclosed, and stole the old sword and best mace from the mayor's house.

1483. Richard III. came to Coventry at the festival of Corpus Christi, to see the plays; and kept his Christmas at Kenilworth. In this year a great debate took place between the mayor and the bakers, who fled to Baginton Castle and took sanctuary there.

1485. Henry VII. came to this city, after his victory over Richard III., at Bosworth Field, and lodged at the house of ROBERT ONLEY, the mayor, who presented the king with a cup and £100, and in return he received the honour of knighthood.

1487. Thomas Harrington, of Oxford, was brought here and beheaded on the conduit opposite the Bull, for having called himself

the son of the Duke of Clarence. This year Jem's bell was hung in St. Michael's tower.

1492. Henry VII., with his queen, came to see the plays performed by the Grey Friars.

1495. Sir Henry Mumford and Sir Robert Mallerie were beheaded under Binley Gallows, for treason. Mumford's head was placed on Bablake-gate, and Mallerie's on Bishop-gate.

1497. Prince Arthur came to Coventry, and was presented with a cup and £100.

1498. Bablake Beadhouse was commenced by Thomas Bond; in that year he was mayor.

1499. Henry VII. and his queen came to this city, and were made a brother and sister of Trinity Guild.

1510. Henry VIII. and his queen came to Coventry to witness the pageants, and afterwards proceeded to the Priory. Also in this year Joan Ward was burnt in the Little Park for heresy. The old cross taken down and new made; it was entirely rebuilt about 30 years afterwards.

1512. A hundred men were raised in Coventry for foreign military service.

1519. In this year seven persons (including two women) were burnt in the Little Park for heresy.

1521. Robert Sikeby was burnt for denying the real presence.

1522. Two men, named Pratt and South, were arrested here for treason. They confessed it was also their intention to have put the mayor and aldermen to death, and to have robbed St. Mary's Hall. They were afterwards "hanged, drawn, and quartered," and their heads and limbs exposed on four of the city gates.

On Lammas day, 1524, the inhabitants pulled down the gates and hedges of some ground that had been enclosed. The people within the city closed Newgates against the Chamberlain and their company, and the mayor was sent a prisoner to London, and removed from his office.

1525. The Princess Mary came to Coventry to witness the Mercer's pageant, and remained two days at the Priory.

1541. The Mayor laid the first stone of the *new* cross in Cross Cheaping. It was finished in 1544.

1550. The magistrates of Coventry had a sale of wood in the Park, and sold the pales. The Park was then made a pasture.

1555. Feb. 8th, Mr. Laurence Saunders was burned in the Little Park for heresy. On Sept. 19, in the same year, Robert Glover, of Mancetter, and Cornelius Bongay, of Coventry, were also burnt on similar charges.

1560. The Boys' Hospital, at Bablake, was founded by Thomas Wheatley.

In the beginning of 1563 wheat sold at 8s. a strike, but in the end of the same year it had fallen to 1s. 2d. the strike.

1564. Plague visited the city.

On the 17th of August, 1565, Queen Elizabeth came to Coventry, where she was splendidly received by the Mayor and citizens, with a variety of shows and entertainments.

1567. The Park was granted in *fee ferme* to this city.

1568. John Harford, mayor, was deprived of his office, and excluded from the City Council for ever for striking one William Heley, an embroiderer, so severely that he died. The dispute arose over the quarrelling of their dogs.

1569. Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned in Coventry, at the Bull Inn. The same year the register books of St. Michael's Church were burnt, because they contained some marks of Popery.

1572-3. There is a curious entry in the old Guild and Charity books, which says that this year, during the mayoralty of Thomas Wyght, "the magistrates plucked down White Friars Church, in Coventry," and in 1574 (Symon Cotton, mayor), "the White Friars' steeple was let fall down."

1574. The Mayor's parlour was erected in Cross Cheaping. The plague raged in Coventry this year.

1575. The old Coventry play of "Hock Tuesday" was performed before Queen Elizabeth, for her entertainment while at Kenilworth Castle.

1578. This year the Dirge Hall Wardens and Priests' Chambers and school-house were laid together, and converted into a Bridewell or House of Correction.

1582. The vault over and against the Mayor's parlour was built.

1586. In consequence of a great scarcity of provisions, every



man, woman, and child in this city were numbered, and were found to amount to 6,502 persons.

1593. The great mace made this year.

1596. Lady Katherine Berkley died at Caludon, and was buried in St. Michael's Church.

1603, April 3, the Princess Elizabeth, eldest daughter of James I., accompanied by other persons of distinction, came to Coventry from Combe Abbey. She was met by the Mayor and Corporation at Stoke Green, and received by the various companies, and, after having heard a sermon at St. Michael's Church, dined with the Mayor, who presented her with a silver cup at the city's expense. The same year the plague raged so dreadfully in Coventry that 494 persons died of it.

1605. Two fat oxen, worth £18, were given to the Princess Elizabeth as a present from this city.

1608. Bablake Church was repaired; the picture of a Dead Christ being taken from the Cross, was removed thence, and the King's Arms placed in its stead.

1611. Prince Henry, with a train of nobility, came to this city, and were entertained at St. Mary's Hall. £50 was given to the Prince as a present.

1613. The long gallery on the south side of St. Michael's Church was built, at a cost of £59. 16s.

August, 1616. King James I. visited Coventry with a numerous train of nobility, and in expectation of this visit most of the houses and gates had been painted black and white. There was a grand procession of the Mayor and Corporation, and a cup of pure gold, which cost £160, weighing 45 ounces, was presented to his majesty who promised to drink out of it wherever he went, and ordered it to be put amongst the royal plate. The King slept at the White Friars.

1622. The Mayor planted 250 young trees in the park.

1625. A plague visited the city, when many of the inhabitants left it and went to live at Quinton and Grey Friars Orchard in temporary huts and tents.

1626. The two chamberlains paid a fine of £20 for making a smaller feast at Lammas than their predecessors.

1627. The Mount in the park was raised and trees planted in the middle of the Mount.

1629. A pillory was erected in Cross Cheaping.

1632. The Swanswell Water Works were constructed.

1635. Old Parr passed through Coventry, aged 152 years.

The same year the first tax for ship-money was paid in Coventry.

1641. Coventry besieged by the forces of Charles I. and repulsed. The city garrisoned for the Parliament.

1642. The New Buildings were erected on the site of the Priory.

1647. The Scotch army, under the Duke of Hamilton, being beaten, several hundred prisoners were brought to this city and were confined in Leather Hall, Bablake Church, Spon Tower, Grey Friars' Tower, and other places.

1648. A riot took place between the soldiers and the butchers.

This year Mrs Smith, of Shelford House, Wolvey, was burnt at Cloudesley Bush for the murder of her husband on Wolvey Heath. A reprieve arrived too late, just as the flames were consuming her.

1650. Charles II. came into England and Coventry was again fortified, and a regiment of infantry was raised for its defence.

1662. On the 24th of August this year the Rev. Dr. Obadiah Grew, Vicar of St. Michael's, and the Rev. Dr. John Bryan, Vicar of Trinity, and Mr. Basnet, lecturer of both churches, were simultaneously ejected from their livings under the Act of Uniformity. Dr. Grew evinced strong attachment to Coventry, and repeated his visits and preachings here at several periods afterwards. He endured six months' imprisonment in gaol on account of his nonconformist principles, and died 22nd October, 1689.

This year the city walls were dismantled.

1674. The six bells of St. Michael's Church were cast into eight. In this year part of Trinity spire was taken down and rebuilt.

September 1682, the Duke of Monmouth came to Coventry and lodged at the Star Inn in Earl-street.

September, 1687, King James II. came to Coventry, when he was received by the Mayor, who presented him with a gold cup weighing 3lbs, which cost £167 7s. 6d.

1688. December 11, the Princess Ann of Denmark, with attendants, came to Coventry for security.



On the 5th June, 1690, King William came to Coventry on his journey to Ireland. He dined at Packington Hall, and thence proceeded to Lichfield, where he slept the same night. Baker, Billing, and Crowe's Charity School founded.

1694. The inhabitants of this city were numbered on account of a payment which was levied by Parliament on births and burials ; the population amounted to 6,710.

1696. Samuel Smith, a mercer, introduced the art of weaving tammiies into this city:

1698. The register of St. Michael's Parish, kept in a cupboard in the vestry, was accidentally destroyed by fire. In the same year the common gaol of this city was taken down and rebuilt at an expense of £350.

1701. The Great Meeting House in Smithford-street built.

1711. Party politics ran high, and a plot was laid to seize the sword and mace on the 1st of November, when the mayor (Joseph Eburne) came to be sworn in at St. Mary's Hall. The sword and mace were therefore deposited at a house in Fleet-street, where, in the open street, the ceremony of swearing in the mayor was suddenly gone through ; and in consequence of subsequent similar designs during this mayoralty, the sword and mace were privately conveyed in a basket of wool to Canley, near this city.

1714. Girls' Blue Coat School founded.

1733. Mrs. Katherine Bayley's Charity School founded. St. Michael's organ built.

1719. The Women's Market was removed from the Great Butcher-row to its former situation, the site of the present Market-hall.

1723. St. Michael's parish contained 1,237 houses, and Trinity parish 697.

1734. Thomas Wildley, a woolcomber, murdered his aunt, Susanah Wall, and Ann Shenton, her daughter, who kept the White Lion in Smithford-street.

On Monday, July 20, 1741, the *Coventry Mercury* newspaper was first printed in this city by Mr. Jopson.

1741. *Coventry Standard*, a Conservative newspaper, established this year,

1745. A company of soldiers was raised in this city to resist the Scotch rebels.

By Bradford's survey in 1748-9, Coventry appears to have contained 2,065 houses, and 12,117 inhabitants.

1751. Fairfield's Charity School founded.

1753. The houses at the north-west corner of Grey Friars were taken down to widen the entrance towards Broadgate. The effigy of Peeping Tom, which stood at the corner house, removed to the place it now occupies.

August, 1755, horse races were instituted in Coventry Park, S. Greathead, Esq., steward.

1756. At this time (in the month of May), as appears from the journal of John Hewitt, mayor, a shrewd and expert magistrate, there were 126 licensed victuallers in Coventry, at whose houses above 600 soldiers were billeted. There were 16 at the White Bear, High-street; 14 at the Rose and Crown, High-street; 14 at the Black Lion, High-street; 14 at the Coach and Horses, Muchford-street; 12 at the Bull's Head, Spon-end, Bishop-street; 12 at the Horse Shoe, Spon-end; 10 at the Nag's Head, 10 at the Eagle and Child, Fleet-street; and 10 officers at the King's Head, Smithford-street. At the other houses they were quartered in numbers of from two to eight each.

In the month of September, in the same year, there were symptoms of rioting on account of the high price of provisions, and a number of colliers entered the town from Bedworth. On this occasion the Mayor, John Hewitt, caused an abstract of the laws against forestalling to be printed and circulated.

1757. In the months of April and June two soldiers were shot for desertion under the Park wall, near the end of Little Park-street.

1758. John Rue hanged for house breaking.

1759. General thanksgiving in the churches of Coventry for the ceasing of the cattle plague.

1760. Grand procession of the Corporation on the proclamation of King George III.

1762. New Gate was taken down, it was the first one erected.



1763. Swine's Cross, which stood in Bishop-street, opposite Silver-street, was taken down.

1763. Two men and two women hanged for robbing the Castle Inn, and the following year another man was hanged for an accomplice. They are known as the "Coventry gang." They were apprehended mainly through the efforts of Alderman John Hewitt, who gives a full account of the proceedings in his published journals.

1765. On the night of Friday, the 18th of March, Thomas Edwards, a farmer, was murdered near Whoberly, on his return from this city, by Moses Baker, a weaver of Coventry, and two dragoons named Drury and Leslie, who had come from their quarters at Warwick. They were hung afterwards on Gibbet Hill.

In this year Gosford Gate was taken down. "Muckhills" advertised for sale. Bishop-street Gate removed the following year.

1767. Spon Bridge was built.

The following is a card of the Coventry Races for the same year:

#### COVENTRY RACES, 1767.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12.—Members of the City's Purse, 50 Pounds.  
Edward Popham, Esq.'rs chesnut horse Lath, 5 yrs. old—

Rider, John South .....	1	1
Mr. Archer's bay horse, Honest Farmer—Miles Thistlethwait .....	2	3
Edmund Turner, Esqr's. chesnut horse, Spot—Robert Wilson .....	3	2

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13.—The City's Purse of Fifty Pounds.

Dr. Huddleston's chesnut horse, Galin, 4 yrs. ....	3	1	1
Mr. Nutt's bay horse, Honest Billy.....	dr.		
Mr. Payne's bay horse, Sloven .....Daniel Miret	1	2	2

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14.—The Chamberlain's Purse of Fifty Pounds.

Mr. Nutt's bay horse, Early .....	Thistlethwait	1	1
Mr. Lenton's black horse, Black Prince .....	Fisher	2	2
Mr. Jordan's c. horse, Schoolboy .....	J. Ives	0	0

1768. The first general meeting of the Coventry Canal Company was held. The canal was opened August 10th, in the following year.

1771. Spon Gate was taken down. In the same year Grey Friar's Spire was repaired, and a gilt ball and vane placed on its summit. The Cross taken down.

In March, 1772, one Mary Cloes, of Gosford-street, nearly opposite New Court, was burnt to death by spontaneous combustion. She lived in a room with a brick floor, and had been confined to her bed some time by illness, caused by intemperance. The bed on which she lay had but one curtain, and stood next the window, the fire place being on the opposite side of the room. The evening before the accident, she was left with only two bits of coal in the grate and a rushlight on a chair at the head of her bed. Smoke being seen to issue from her door the next morning, the door was burst open ; and her remains lay on the floor, almost reduced to a cinder, while the furniture and bed clothes were scarcely damaged. The deceased was so excessively addicted to dram-drinking, that she occasionally drank a quart of rum, or of aniseed water, daily ; and thus filling her veins with spirits, she became inflammable as a lamp. The belief is that she rolled out of bed, and took fire from the candle, and thus was totally burnt, her thighs and one leg excepted ; and nothing was left but her bones, which were in a complete state of calcination.

On the night of November 2nd, in the same year, Charles Pinchbeck, keeper of the Stoke toll-gate, near Binley, was robbed and murdered in his own house by two burglars named Farn and Howe.

In the same year the gaol of this city, being in a decayed state and constructed upon a plan too confined, was rebuilt upon an enlarged scale.

On the 20th of May, 1773, the river Sherborne overflowed, and laid part of the city nearly seven feet under water.

On the 24th of November, the same year, Mr. Siddons, the tragedian, was married to Miss Kemble at Trinity Church. He had this year occupied the old Drapers' Hall as a theatre.

1774. The eight bells of St. Michael's Church were re-cast into



ten, by Pack and Chapman, and hung by R. Turner, of London. The weight amounted to 6 tons, 18 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lbs.

This year the celebrated Rowland Hill, then a young man, preached to crowded congregations in Coventry.

1779. A new set of chimes were placed in St. Michael's steeple, made by Worton, of Birmingham, at an expense of £300.

1780. Messrs. Noxon and Butler, the two sheriffs of this city, were sent to Newgate, and suffered a short imprisonment, for misconduct at the election of Members of Parliament. The same year took place the "Bludgeon Fight" between the rival electioneering parties, in front of the booth in Cross Cheaping. It was at this election that a number of unqualified persons were admitted to the freedom by the corporation, on condition of voting for the corporation candidates. These surreptitious voters were called "Mush-room Freemen."

October, 1781. Grey Friars'-gate was taken down.

1783. A double row of houses, at the south-west angle of St. Michael's churchyard was taken down. The Sun Inn was one of them. The site was added to the churchyard, and consecrated in 1787.

1785. The County Hall was built.

In the same year Sunday Schools were formed in Coventry. The first in connexion with a place of worship was that established at West Orchard Chapel, of which the Rev. George Burder was then minister. This was followed almost immediately by one at St. Michael's Church. The members of the Church of England and the Dissenters were, at that period, united in Coventry in the promotion of Sunday Schools.

This year Bissell and Hawkins were hanged for forgery, and Farmer for horse stealing; and the next year, a man named Dyers was hanged for house breaking.

1786. The east end of Trinity Church was rebuilt. The same year St. Michael's Church was broken into, and the communion plate and other articles stolen from the vestry.

1787. The row of Trees leading from the Park hollow to Quinton Pool cut down.

In the same year the Golden Horse public house was set on fire by Mary Felkin, who was convicted and executed for the offence. The Golden Horse was then situated in Pepper-lane, on part of the site of the present gaol.

1788. The Canal Office was built.

1789. William Edwards, a builder, died. He left £100 to be invested for the St. Michael's ringers; and it is in commemoration of him that a funeral peal is always rung on the 13th of January in each year.

1790. Farnsworth, Phillips, and Archer were hanged for robbing the Shepherd and Shepherdess public house at Keresley.

1793. The Barracks were built on the site of the Bull Inn.

This year the effigy of Thomas Paine, with a copy of his "Rights of Man," was burnt in Cross Cheaping.

1794. The great wooden framework for the bells of St. Michael's tower was constructed, and the bells re-hung. The expense was estimated at £3,752.

In the same year the street on St. John's Bridges was widened, for which purpose the front of the Free School was taken down and rebuilt.

February, 1795. The Park began to be enclosed.

1795. Great floods of the Sherborne in the neighbourhood of Fleet-street, West Orchard.

1797. An association of the inhabitants of this city was formed into two troops of cavalry and three companies of infantry.

February, 1798. A soup institution was first established in Coventry.

In the same year this city and neighbourhood subscribed several thousand pounds in aid of Government, to prosecute the war.

September, 1800. Food riots took place in Coventry in consequence of the dearness of provisions. The disturbance was quelled by the military, with the magistrates and the "Coventry Volunteers."

This year Bissaker and Henshaw were hanged for forgery.

In the same year more floods occurred in the Sherborne. Great damage was done.



1801. The Act of Parliament for uniting the parishes for the purpose of providing for the poor was passed.

By the census taken the same year, Coventry was reported to contain 2,930 houses, and 16,049 inhabitants. The county of the city, 5,547 inhabitants.

1802. A massive gold ring was found in Coventry park.

On September 3, 1802, Lord Nelson, accompanied by Sir William and Lady Hamilton and other friends, arrived in this city, and alighting at the King's Head Inn, met with the hearty acclamations of the inhabitants. The Mayor and Corporation waited on the gallant hero, who gave them a polite reception.

January, 1805. A company of volunteers was raised in this city, to join the First Regiment of Warwickshire Volunteer Infantry.

1807. The bells in St. Michael's steeple were re-hung, on an improved plan, upon the framework erected within the tower in 1794. The tenor, weighing upwards of 32 cwt., was re-cast by Mr. Briant, of Hertford.

On the 18th of September, 1807, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex passed through this city, on their route from Ragley, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford, to Combe Abbey, the seat of the Earl of Craven. Here they were visited a few days afterwards by a deputation from the Corporation of Coventry, presenting a "loyal and dutiful address," to which a gracious answer was given, and the deputation, consisting of the Mayor (Basil Goode, Esq.), with four Aldermen and the Town Clerk, were regaled with a sumptuous repast. The Prince gave a donation of 100 guineas, and the Duke a donation of 40 guineas, to be distributed by the Corporation, and the same was given to four public charities in the proportion of 35 guineas to each.

In the same year a second volunteer company was raised in this city, to join the First Regiment of Warwickshire Volunteer Infantry.

On the 24th of November, 1808, Louis XVIII. of France and his suite passed through this city.

1808. *Coventry Herald*, a Liberal newspaper, was established. The *Free Press* was a few years ago amalgamated with it.

1809. The two companies of Coventry Volunteers, with their regiment, entered into the First Regiment of Warwickshire Local Militia.

On the 25th of October, 1809, a general festival took place in this city in celebration of the jubilee, or 50th anniversary of the accession of George III. A public subscription, amounting to £756 5s., was raised and distributed to families, comprising 11,000 individuals, in allowances of bread, meat, and ale. The debtors in the gaol were released; the criminal prisoners were supplied with roast beef and 5s. each. The Bablake Boys had roast beef, plum-pudding, and 6d. each. The old women at Ford's, and the old men at Bablake Hospitals, had 2s. each; and a like sum was given to the Blue Coat Girls. The poor at the House of Industry were also suitably entertained by the liberality of Lord Grey and the officers of the Fourth Warwickshire Regiment of Local Militia; and a bountiful supply of good fare was given to the soldiers of the 14th Light Dragoons, head quarters of which regiment then lay in the Coventry Barracks. A great dinner of the Corporation took place at St. Mary's Hall. Sheep roasting was general, and in the evening a grand display of fireworks and bonfires was made in Cross Cheaping and other parts of the town.

1810. Obadiah Yardley, having committed suicide, and a verdict of *felo de se* having been returned, his body was taken in a cart through the streets, in the day time, and buried near to the junction of Hannah-lane with the Stoney Stanton road, against the Canal bridge.

1812. An Act of Parliament was obtained "for improving the public roads in and through the City of Coventry," and authorising toll gates to be erected at its different extremities to meet the expense. Under this Act Hertford-street was formed, having been commenced immediately on the passing of the Act, previous to which all the coaching and carriage traffic in the direction of Warwick was carried on through the narrow and dangerous avenue, Grey Friars'-lane.

1815. This year the Rev. J. Davis, accompanied by the parish officers and others, "walked the bounds" of the Holy Trinity



parish, on his induction to the vicarage. Mr. Davis had officiated in the same Church from the year 1811.

In the same year, the Prince Regent (late George the Fourth), visited Combe Abbey, the seat of Earl Craven, on which occasion the Mayor, and a deputation from the Corporation of Coventry, waited on his Royal Highness with a loyal and dutiful address. The Prince Regent, in return, conferred the honour of knighthood upon the Mayor, Mr. Skears Rew.

1816. The Chantry Orchard (now Chantry Place) began to be built upon. The foundations of the first eight houses were laid by Mr. A. Sprigg, on the 8th of May, and by the Midsummer following they were inhabited.

This year 27 feet of St. Michael's Church spire was taken down and rebuilt.

1817. On the 27th February this year, Thomas Lawson, butcher, was killed in his bed, by the falling of his house, in the Great Butcher row.

April, Charles Sanders was executed at Warwick, for the murder of an old man named Rogers, at Keresley.

At the Great Fair, in the month of June, this year, a bear was shot on Grey Friar's-green, by order of the magistrates, it having been previously shaved and tortured by some show-people, in order to practice an imposition on the public, by exhibiting it under the name of the "Polo Savage."

1818. In the month of August the weathercock of St. Michael's Church was regilt and replaced. The Theatre built by Sir Skears Rew.

In the month of September, this year, William Law was killed by a man named Jackson, of Foleshill, in a quarrel on the Warwick-road, near Coventry, when returning from Kenilworth Statutes.

1819. 27th October, Prince Leopold (late King of the Belgians), passed through Coventry, and was presented with the freedom of the City.

1820. This year the west side of "Broad-gate," a short narrow street, but a great thoroughfare and seat of trade, was pulled down, together with several houses on the north side of Smithford-street, and the whole thrown open, making a direct communication into

Hertford-street, and thence to the Warwick turnpike road. In excavating the foundations of the site of the old Broad-gate, the cellaring exhibited some fine specimens of massive stone arches.

“Union-street” and “White Friars’-street” were built the same year.

1821. April 18th, Edward Bradshaw was executed on Whitley Common, for burglary at the Punch Bowl public house, Spon-end, and cutting and wounding Mr. Lines, the landlord.

Moore and Butcher were executed after the Lammas assizes, the same year, on Whitley Common, for burglary and attempt to murder, at Mr. Owen’s farm, Longford.

The first public Gas-works were this year erected in Coventry.

1823. The first houses were built on the site of the old Tower Wall, now Bond-street. In the same year, the Great Fair, which until now was held in the principal streets of Coventry, was removed to Grey Friar’s-green; and the windows in the Great Hall of St. Mary’s reglazed.

1824. The Free School was converted into a temporary warehouse for silk.

1825. A tremendous thunderstorm visited Coventry, and the next year another, in which a house occupied by a woman named Careless, adjoining the Charter House leys, was severely damaged.

1828. This year the fields lying between Swanswell-pool and Primrose-hill began to be converted into building land. The first house erected in Hill Field is situate in King William-street, a row of houses adjoining the field, in Harnall-lane, having been reared a short time before. There are now above 2000 inhabitants in this district.

1828. Matthew Payne, organist of St. Michael’s Church died, and the present organist, Mr. Simms, succeeded him.

1829. The ball and fan of Grey Friars’ or Christ Church spire was taken down and re-gilt. The erection of the Church was commenced in this year.

1830. May 31st, Mr. Green ascended from Coventry in his balloon.

At Coventry Fair, June 18th, Mr. Green again arose in his balloon from Grey Friars’ Green, skimmed over the tops of the houses for



a short distance, and came in contact with a chimney near Gosford Bridge, when he alighted.

In the month of November the same year, a new conductor was affixed to St. Michael's steeple from the summit to the base, on which occasion the weathercock was temporarily taken down.

1831. August 11th, Mary Ann Higgins was executed on Whitley Common for murdering her uncle by means of poison, an old man of the same name, residing in Spon-street.

The same year the Old Bridewell, near Bablake Church, was taken down, and the establishment consolidated with the gaol.

On the 7th of November, this year, a meeting of ribbon weavers was held in the morning on the subject of wages, and in the course of collecting a meeting for the evening, a party entered the factory of Josiah Beck, down a yard in New-buildings, where the machinery was worked by steam power, and set fire thereto. Several persons were apprehended and tried for the offence, two of whom, named Sparkes and Burbery, were condemned to death, but their sentences were afterwards commuted to transportation for life. The factory destroyed as above stated was the first steam power establishment in the silk trade introduced into Coventry.

1835. The Municipal Corporations Act was passed, and came into effect January 1st, 1836; on the 7th of January the Insignia of Office Civic Regalia were transferred by George Eld, Esq., the last mayor under the old system, to Henry Cadwallader Adams, Esq., the first mayor under the new system at Coventry. This year Isaac Cohen, a Jew, died in Coventry, aged 107; his wife died two years before him, aged 101.

1836. Some miscellaneous property of the old Corporation, the punch bowl, measures, procession paraphernalia, &c., was sold by auction.

1838. The stamp duty of £1 on the admission of freemen abolished.

1839. On the 1st November this year Adelaide Queen Dowager passed through Coventry on her way from Gopsal Hall, the seat of Earl Howe, to Warwick Castle. "The mayor, aldermen, and burgesses," forming the Corporation of Coventry, assembled on this occasion, and proceeding to the boundary of the county of the city

on the Leicester-road, met her Majesty there, and accompanied her in procession to the limit of the Coventry jurisdiction on the Warwick side. This year the sale of butter in the Coventry market was altered from the quart to the pound, and the Statutes were established. Trinity Vicarage built.

1842. The new Boundary Act was passed, putting an end to the ancient jurisdiction of Coventry, and assigning a new boundary to the city.

1843. Seniority Fund commenced.

1844. The Waterworks, the Cemetery, and the Coventry Improvement Acts were passed. The Coventry and Leamington Railway was opened. St. Thomas Church built.

1846. The large nursery ground at Spon-end, known as Chapel Fields, was laid out for building purposes; and in 1847 the first houses were erected. Rev. Robert Simpson died; he was for 53 years vicar of St. Michael's.

1847. New post-office, formerly the office of the *Herald* and *Observer* newspaper, was opened. The same year the new Waterworks were put into operation, and Coventry Cemetery was opened.

1849, August 9th, Mary Ball was hanged in front of the gaol for poisoning her husband at Nuneaton. Mr. William Wombwell was killed by an elephant at Coventry Show Fair. The following year his cousin Ellen Blight was killed at Chatham, and was buried in the same grave with Mr. Wombwell, in the Coventry Cemetery. The city gate at the bottom of Mill-lane (now Cox-street) was taken down. The same year Hillfields was first lighted with gas lamps.

1850. A number of ancient keys, pilgrims' signs, &c., were found in the Sherbourne, near St. John's Hospital, while cleaning out the bed of the river. They are supposed to have belonged to the monasteries near. Coventry and Nuneaton Railway opened.

1852. Great floods in the Sherbourne, the lower parts of the town inundated. Coventry Baths opened.

1854, July 10th.—An Act of Parliament passed by which it is enacted “that the Assizes for the county are no longer to be held alternately at Warwick and Coventry, and the exemption of jurors of Coventry from serving anywhere but in that city is repealed.”



On August 8th of this year the first stone of the Corn Exchange was laid, and the building was opened on January 11, 1856, having been erected by a company of shareholders formed in 1853.

1855. St. Michael's Schools in Muck Park-street opened.

1856. The first houses on the Spital Moors built and the new streets laid out.

1857, Jan. 26.—The railway viaduct, consisting of 23 arches, in Spon-end, fell down about two o'clock in the morning, causing great alarm to the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Spon-end, and the traffic was suspended for two or three years. The re-erection of the arches was shortly afterwards commenced.

1858. Two Russian guns taken in the Crimea were brought into Coventry. The same year the great fair was removed from the Green to the Pool Meadow.

1859. The drinking fountain near Bablake Church first opened.

1860. Great distress in the ribbon trade.

1861. The Half Moon Tavern, which occupied the site of the old drapery and cloth market, taken down and the new street of St. Mary constructed.

1861, May 19. A fire occurred in the rick yard of Mr. Sammon, Tile Hill, which resulted in the destruction of several stacks of corn.

1862. The course of the river Sherbourne, near Shut-lane, was altered, and the drainage improved.

1862. The fire occurred at Spon-end Corn Mill, resulting in much damage. A few years previous a fire occurred at this mill.

1863. The workhouse was enlarged.

1867. The Market Hall was opened. The opening was celebrated by an exhibition of works of art and industry, which for several months attracted large numbers of visitors; the surplus dividend from which, amounting in the whole to about £700, was handed over to the committee of the Free Library, in aid of the reference department, in 1873.

1868. The old Market House was taken down. The Free Library was opened this year.

1869, Jan. 12. The two new churches, All Saints and St. Mark's, were consecrated and opened. Gosford-street Baptist Chapel was also opened this year.

1872, Nov. 13. A murder was committed at Priors Hardwick,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.E. from Southam. The culprit was Edward Hancock, a butcher, who stabbed his wife. He was executed at Warwick gaol, on Tuesday morning, Jan 14, 1873. This was the first private execution at Warwick.

1872, Dec. 17.—Some parts of the city were flooded through heavy rain, when much damage was done to publicans, shopkeepers, and others in the neighbourhood of Spon End, street and Butts.

1872. Christmas.—Some workmen in digging clay in a brick-yard, at Jeffery Woods Cross, discovered some remains, consisting of 12 brick and two stone arches, which appear to have been a mediæval brick and pottery kiln. The whole of the field shows signs of previous occupation. Six of the brick and two stone arches now only remain.

1873. While Shustock Church was being restored, two stone coffins were discovered, said to be those of Sir William Dugdale, the historian, and his lady.

1873. This year horse races were established at Binley.

1873, April 25 & 26.—Steeplechase racing was first established at Meriden, near Coventry. The races were well attended, and it is believed they will be held annually.

1873, May 13.—About four o'clock in the afternoon of this day a fire broke out in the rick yard of Mr. Wm. Sammon, Tile Hill Farm, when three ricks of wheat, one of hay, and two of straw were totally destroyed. It is said that the fire was caused by some sparks flying from the steam thrashing machine, which was placed in the face of the wind, so that the sparks were blown backward into the ricks, and, with the exception of the engine portion, the machine was destroyed by the fire.

1873, June 10.—A TORNADO IN WARWICKSHIRE.—The *Birmingham Morning News* says that on this day (the same day on which a severe thunder storm occurred in Coventry) a perfect tornado seems to have visited some of the rural villages in Central Warwickshire. The following particulars have been supplied by William Rushton and William Fieldhouse, of Ullenhall, both of whom witnessed it and narrowly escaped injury. On the estate of Mr. Newton, Barrell's Hall, Ullenhall, large trees were torn



up by the roots, and the branches were carried a considerable distance by the force of the hurricane. A farm house was unroofed, and even the lead gutters were torn up and carried away. In the little village of Ullenhall the homestead of Mr. Hanker suffered serious injury. The house was unroofed, cowsheds and piggeries were destroyed, many of the trees in the garden and orchard torn up, and some of them carried to a distance of 200 yards, two straw ricks were carried bodily across a wheat field, and the whole neighbourhood round was strewn with fragments and *debris* of various kinds. Mr. Hanker saw the whirlwind coming towards his farm, "The air was thick with broken boughs," he says, "and the roar sounded like the cawing of thousands of noisy rooks." With great presence of mind Mr. Hanker called his family and servants from the house, and conveyed them to a shed at the rear, believing that the house itself, which stood exposed to the full fury of the tornado, must suffer very considerably. Nor was he mistaken. Windows were smashed in, and much damage was done to the roof and interior of the dwelling. In Olbury Wood oak trees were uprooted, other trees were shivered into splinters and carried long distances. The farm of Mr. Thomas Hanker, brother to the gentleman just named, was also visited by the storm. The house was unroofed, the cross-tiles of some new outbuildings were carried away, and a straw rick was scattered far and wide. On the farm of Messrs. Scroxton and Brookes a good deal of damage was also done. The total damage, so far as it is yet known, will represent several thousand pounds sterling. Fortunately, no loss of human life is reported, and the number of sheep and cattle destroyed is very small, considering the violence of the hurricane. One of the oak trees uprooted was 3ft. 2in. in diameter, and 9ft. 6in. in circumference, and turf 16ft. by 12ft. was carried away with it. The "oldest inhabitant" of Ullenhall cannot remember a previous storm of such violence, and the youngest inhabitant will never forget it.

1873, July 14.—On this day Dr. Waters, an eminent physician of this city, was, after visiting a patient, thrown from his horse, at Sowe, and died from the effects of the fall the day after.

1873, July 22.—The members of the Architectural Society of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, the Architectural and Archæological

Society of the county of Leicester, and the Warwickshire Naturalists and Archæologists' Field Club, visited Coventry, and assembled in the Great Hall of St. Mary, where a paper was read by Mr. W. G. Fretton of this city, on "Coventry and its Antiquities." They afterwards visited the various old places of interest in the city, accompanied by W. Odell, Esq., Mr. Astley, Mr. Fretton, and other gentlemen. In the evening a public meeting was held in the hall, and several other papers read.

1873, July 22.—On this day a shocking murder and suicide occurred at King's Wood, near Warwick. The parties were Francis Spencer Hildrick, aged 73, and Joseph Parsons, aged 43, whom it appears lived together in a cottage for 20 years. They lived in a rather peculiar manner, no female being allowed to enter the premises. At night Parsons returned home about eleven o'clock, and he and Hildrick were seen conversing together on the road. Parsons walked into the house, took down a gun, and deliberately shot Hildrick through the head, who dropped dead. Parsons re-loaded the gun, and, after three fruitless attempts to discharge it, shot himself, and the wound proved fatal.

1873. The *Miners' Weekly News* established this year.

1873, Sept. 3.—At Bishop Itchington John Smith, whose father occupies the *Fir Tree Farm*, and a sheep dog were killed by lightning whilst sheltering under a tree, the lightning having struck the tree causing it to fall. Thomas Atkins, a labourer, who was also sheltering under the same tree, was severely stunned.

1873, Oct. 15.—The *Coventry Independent* established.

1873, Dec. 13.—A few days ago, whilst some of the workhouse inmates were engaged in excavating for stone in the garden, they discovered some remains of the foundation of the Church of the Monastery of the Carmelites or White Friars, on which were found two human skeletons lying side by side, their heads turned in a westerly direction. The skeletons were male and female; the latter appeared to have been about 40 years, and the former about 30 years of age. The teeth of the female were in a good state of preservation. The remains were discovered about four feet below the surface, and partly upon the foundation of a wall running east from what appears to have been the great tower of the church. It



may be supposed that they perished in the plague of 1625-6, when many persons left the city and took up their abode in temporary huts and tents at Quinton and Grey Friars Orchard. There is a curious entry in the old Guild and Chantry books, which says, that during the years 1572-3, when Thomas Wyght was mayor, "the magistrates plucked down the White Friars' Church in Coventry," and in 1574, when Symon Cotton was mayor, "the White Friars' steeple was let fall down." The bodies were re-interred in the Cemetery. If the excavations had been continued, no doubt some very interesting remains of the church would have been found which would have thrown light on its plan and extent.

1874, Jan. 23.—About 1.30 a.m., a fire occurred at Whitley Abbey, by which the servants' apartments were completely destroyed. They contained much valuable property, but fortunately the inmates escaped.

### SITUATION OF THE CITY.

The city is pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence, the river Sherbourne runs through it from west to east, with which the Radford brook, running from north to south, unites within the town. In the more ancient part the streets are narrow, and many of the houses constructed in the style of the 16th century, formed with a ponderous timber frame-work, filled up with brick and plaster, the upper stories projecting over each other into the streets, giving to them, in many cases, a dark and gloomy character; though, in some instances, these curious specimens of the antique fashion of building are not destitute of interest to the passing stranger. As a specimen of this type of building we may mention an old house near St. Mary's Hall, now occupied as a baker's shop; it is a fine specimen of ancient timber frame-work, the door and mouldings being elaborately carved. There is a very fine specimen of this type in the building now occupied as a brewery in Much Park-street, lately restored by Alderman Marriott. Of late years the town has been much modernised; many old houses have given place to new and handsome ones. Many new streets have been built on The Butts, Chapelfields, and Hillfields, each of which forms an

extensive suburb. The town is well paved, and is well lighted with gas and supplied with water.

### EARLY TRADES.

The making of caps was an important trade of the town prior to the year 1436, as was also the manufacture of woollen and broad cloth, the latter continued to flourish till the end of the 16th century. At this time Coventry was celebrated for a peculiar kind of blue thread, which, for the permanence of its colour, obtained the appellation of "Coventry true blue." About the beginning of the 18th century, striped and mixed tammies, camlets, shalloons, and calimancoes, were manufactured to a considerable extent, to which succeeded the throwing of silk, the weaving of gauzes, broad silks, and ribbons, and the manufacture of watches; the two latter at present form the staple trades of the town.

In 1831 it was said, though the trade was depressed, that the silk trade, by the introduction of French looms and machinery, afforded employment to nearly 16,000 persons.

### THE SILK AND RIBBON TRADE

was introduced here, as well as at Spitalfields, by French refugees after the revocation of the edict of Nantes in 1685. The throwing of silk, the weaving of silk gauze, broad silks and ribbons, succeeded. The ribbon trade was for some time confined to but few hands, but it gradually increased, and became almost relinquished to Coventry, and spread to so very great an extent that, in 1838, there were in the Coventry trade 3,504 plain engine-looms, only 50 of which were in the rural weaving parishes, including Nuneaton, Bulkington, Bedworth, Chilverscoton, and Hartshill, as well as the adjoining parishes; 2,228 Jacquard engine looms, of which 950 were in the rural parishes, and 7,480 single hand-looms, all of which were in the rural parishes, except 129 in the city, making a total of 13,229 looms worked by hand, and nearly all employed. Between 17,000 and 18,000 persons, of whom between 6,000 and 7,000 were in the city and suburbs, and the remainder in the rural parishes, were engaged in the trade. In the city and suburban villages, the numbers employed were 3,222 plain engine, 1,182 Jacquard, 123



single hand, in all 4,527 looms; besides 53 power, and 4 alabar looms. The total number of looms in 1831 was 14,602, but only 5,062 were employed, of which 2,464 were in the city and suburbs. The total number in the city, in 1818, was 3,268, employing 4,973 hands. Thus the trade at this time was in some degree on the increase; and during the year 1838 more goods were made than in any previous year since the commencement of the manufacture, but this partly arose from the increased production by engine looms, wherewith several breadths were made at once, since which the engine looms have rapidly increased through the whole district. The plain engine trade, the fancy engine, or Jacquard trade, and the single hand trade, are the three great branches of the Coventry hand-loom weaving manufacture. The plain trade comprises the manufacture of plain satins, sarcenets, gauzes, and pads, of all colours, and also of 'lovas,' which are chiefly gauze and satin in stripes of mourning colours. The fancy trade consists in the manufacture of the same fabrics, with figures of various texture applied, when small, to ribbons of a considerable breadth, by a number of treadles in the single hand-loom, but more commonly by means of the jacquard machine attached to the engine looms. One class of fancy ribbons are of a homogeneous texture, but various colours, clouded, barred, or plaided; another consists of the chinas and china gauzes. The introduction of the engine-loom, and afterwards of the Jacquard machine, greatly accelerated the production of ribbons, which caused great dissatisfaction amongst the operative weavers, by leaving many destitute of work, and greatly reducing the value of weaving, from which the Coventry weavers were induced to petition Parliament for a restriction of the seven years' servitude, and for a regulative trades' police, or other magisterial jurisdiction over the trade for the regulation of wages. In point of fact this was for an extension of the Spitalfields' Act to them. This led to the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry, but which, contrary to the desire of the trade generally, led to the total repeal of that celebrated Act in 1824, and to a repeal of the law of prohibition itself, which came fully into operation in 1829. The consequences arising from the admission of French and other foreign goods have, at various times, led to an almost universal desire of

the trade for the re-establishment of some prohibitory system, or other regulative mode of relief and advancement of the trade. The Commissioners, in their report on hand-loom weaving, observe, that "though great distress was felt for a brief period on the introduction of foreign silks, and the highest wear of ribbons is still supplied by France, yet the great body of the trade is now exempt from the immediate pressure of foreign competition," and the trade which has not been so much depressed as outstripped, "has now met a rival much nearer home than St. Etienne," in the "home competition." The Coventry weavers have thus been kept in constant trepidation, and in the factory and steam power manufacture at Congleton, Leek, Derby, &c., and Coventry itself, where there are several steam-loom factories; and that, in fact, since the full encounter with French competition. Since 1828 engine-loom for ribbons, with steam-power looms throughout the trade have been introduced; and where science and mechanism can perform the greatest part of the labour that manufacture should extend. On the other hand, where man must principally perform the labour, that manufacture, under our liberal policy, must decline. If this science and this liberal policy be really productive of good and of prosperity to the nation, certainly England must be in a most prosperous and happy condition; for our mechanical and scientific exertions, during the last 50 years, have been wonderful. Recent occurrences in Europe, and the dreadful distress which has for a considerable period laid prostrate the industry of man, causing the most alarming discontent in England, and which distress, on a careful investigation of the history of the last 50 years, has had only a few short intermissions. It certainly behoves the people calmly to consider whether *man*, and the fully devising means for his profitable employment, or the encouraging of science, and the employment of steam-engine propelled machinery, should be the first object of the care of our legislature.

At Kingfield, Foleshill, are situate the extensive works of Messrs. J. and C. Cash, where ribbons and trimmings are manufactured of every design, the latest and most approved machinery being employed. The works comprise a neat building of brick, in which about 400 workmen are employed, 50 of whom live in neat cottages



erected under the shops, with gardens attached. There are dining and reading rooms, library, workmen's club, and cricket ground for the use of the workmen.

A new and artistic branch of manufacture has been introduced at Coventry by Mr. Thomas Stevens, which is that of pure silk woven book markers. The extensive works of the inventor are situated in West Orchard, at which these beautiful works of art of every design, and embellished with religious, political, and other subjects, are manufactured in large quantities.

There are also several large dyeing establishments; trimming and carriage lace, frilling, elastic web, carpet, alpaca, plush, &c., manufactories. The trimming manufacture is very extensive, being divided into various branches.

### WATCH TRADE.

Coventry has long been celebrated for its watches; and while the ribbon trade has during the last few years materially decreased, the watch trade has considerably increased, and is still increasing. Large quantities of watches are sent off weekly for the supply of the wholesale dealers in London, and a considerable quantity is by means of travelling agents distributed in every town in the kingdom; and it is believed that a larger quantity could be disposed of if it were possible to manufacture them.

### ART, METAL TRADES, ETC.

Besides the trades already mentioned, there are manufactories for the production of works of art in metal of every architectural design. Amongst these may be mentioned the large and extensive works of Mr. Francis Alfred Skidmore, of Meriden, by whom this beautiful and artistic branch of manufacture was first introduced at Coventry.

The well-known firm of Skidmore and Company, Alma-street, have also large and extensive works, by whom most of the screens in our cathedrals, and more recently, the elaborate metal work of the Prince Consort memorial at Hyde Park, have been erected. Messrs. Richards and Co. have also a large establishment at

Leicester-street, where metal work of every design is manufactured. Messrs. Hodgkinson, Lester, and Poynton, Lower Ford-street, are also engaged in this branch of manufacture.

There are also two extensive sewing machine and bicycle manufactories, ironfoundries, loom manufactories, two large breweries, malt houses, and three large corn mills, viz.: The City Mills, Charter House Mills, and Spon End Mills.

Messrs. Perkins and Sons, Park Nursery, have extensive nursery grounds, where all kinds of plants, shrubs, &c., are cultivated. They have obtained many prizes at various flower shows for their roses. Mr. John Stevens has also nursery grounds at the Coventry Park.

The situation of the town is peculiarly advantageous for trade, being central to the ports of London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Hull, and to the manufacturing districts of England, by means of the London and North Western Railway, which passes the north-west side of the city, and on which there are two stations, one on the Warwick-road and the other at Coundon-road. The Coventry Canal enters the town at Bishop-street, where there is commodious wharfage, and an extensive range of offices. There is a communication with London, Manchester, Liverpool, the Staffordshire Potteries, and all parts of Cheshire.

## MARKETS.

The market for corn is held in the Corn Exchange, Hertford street, every Friday, and is usually well attended. Stock sales are held fortnightly at the Cattle Market in Hales-street, which occupy the site of the stagnant pool formerly known as the Priory Mill dam. Market for butter, eggs, poultry, fish, and butchers' meat, &c., was held, until 1867, at the rear of Cross Cheaping, but this year it was removed to the Market Hall Buildings, in which it is held every Friday and Saturday.

Broadgate and Cross Cheaping are now spacious areas, having been considerably enlarged many years ago. Cross Cheaping was much enlarged by the removal of a middle range of old houses by which it was divided.



ANCIENT MARKET CROSS.—The old Market Cross seems to have been first erected about the commencement of the 14th century. It was re-erected in 1441, and again erected in 1541, by Sir William Hollis, Mayor of London, and a native of this county. It was one of the most beautiful structures of its kind in the kingdom, and originally occupied a place at the head of Cross Cheaping, which street is yet constantly called “The Cross.” It was an hexagonal structure. It measured 57 feet high, each side 7 feet at the base, occupying three stories, with eighteen niches, which were adorned with statutes of kings and saints, some of which had been brought from the monastery of the White Friars. In 1760, the only portion remaining of this beautiful structure was the lower storey and part of the second, with the statue of Henry IV., then much defaced. In 1771 this remaining portion was removed. At the bottom of the steps leading to St. Mary’s Hall, stands a stone figure said to have been one of the statues of the kings which formerly ornamented this Cross.

The MARKET HALL is a large and commodious building of brick, erected in 1867, by the Corporation, situated in the rear of the premises in Cross Cheaping, to which access is obtained on the south side by Market-street, on the north by West Orchard, and on the east by several narrow passages leading from the Cross. The building occupies the site of the old butter market, watch house, and some old tenements, and comprises a large general Market Hall, fitted up with shops and stalls, at the east end of which is the inscription—“Commenced 1865, Robert Harvey Minster, mayor; finished 1867, James Marriott, mayor;” and a meat and fish market, separated from the large hall by an arcade of shopping. On the south side is a lofty square tower, containing an excellent clock, by Loseby of Leicester. The roofs of the building are constructed of iron and glass, and in the meat and fish markets are supported by neat cast-iron pillars. The opening of the building was celebrated by an exhibition of works of art and industry, which for several months attracted large numbers of visitors; the surplus dividend from which, amounting in the whole to over £700, has been lately handed over to the committee of the Free Library, in aid of the reference department.

CORN EXCHANGE, Hertford-street. This building was erected by a company formed in 1853, who purchased the whole of the King's Head property, at a cost of £6,500. The first stone of the new building was laid on the 18th of August, 1854, by F. Wyley, Esq. Mr. James Murray was the architect, and Mr. Thomas Pratt the builder, the cost of the erection being £7,000. It was opened for public business on the 11th of January, 1856. The edifice, which is of brick and stone, in the Italian style, has an imposing frontage in Hertford-street, a flight of steps giving access to a small entrance hall, from which is the entrance to the great hall, a noble room measuring about 100 feet by 52, and will accommodate about 1,000 persons, round which are upper and lower corridors, the upper one being open to the hall, the lower forming a means of communication with the staircases and rooms at the back adjoining Vicar-lane. The rooms adjoining the street on each side of the entrance are let as shops, &c., one of them being occupied by the Coventry Bank for Savings and Stamp Office. Over these are two assembly rooms on each floor. Those south of the entrance hall and staircase are let as occasion may require, for sales, concerts, &c.; the other two are let as warehouses. The great hall is used on Friday for the corn market, and is in great request for popular concerts, entertainments, balls, and other meetings of public interest. Mr. George Cowsill is the superintendent.

### FAIRS AND RACES.

Besides the great pleasure fair, commencing on the Friday in Trinity week, and continuing eight days, there are also two other cattle fairs held, May 2nd (cheese also) and November 2nd, and a monthly cattle fair. A *statute* for the hiring of servants was instituted some years ago, and is held about the first Tuesday after Old Michaelmas day, but is gradually falling into disuse.

Although the custom of annual races in Coventry Park prevailed at a remote date, such races had for a long time sunk into disuse, till the year 1834, when they were resumed at Stoke (just at the



east end of the city); but in 1849, a race course was formed at the west end of the city, between Radford village and Allesley road, and opened in March, in which month the races were held annually, until they were discontinued, some years ago, but it is in contemplation to revive them.

### THE GREAT SHOW FAIR.

This fair, according to the charter granted by Henry III., in 1218, takes place on the Friday in Trinity week, and continues for eight days, on the first of which the commemoration of Lady Godiva's procession is occasionally revived, by a representative obtained for that purpose.

This procession originated from Leofric having granted to the inhabitants of Coventry a charter of "freedom from servitude, evil customs, and exactions," through his countess, Godiva, having complied with his request to ride through the city naked, on horseback. More particulars of this event will be found recorded on page 251. Until the year 1823, the fair was held in the principal streets, when it was removed to the Grey Friars'-green, and held until 1858, when it was again removed to the Pool Meadow, where it is now annually held.

### ENFRANCHISEMENT OF THE CITY.

The city first received the elective franchise in the reign of Edward I., but there were partial intermissions until the 31st of Henry VI., since which time it has regularly returned two members to Parliament. The right of election is vested in the freemen not receiving alms, which freedom is obtained by seven years' servitude to one and the same trade within the city, together with all householders coming under the provisions of the Act of 1868.

### THE LAMMAS AND MICHAELMAS LANDS.

Among the privileges formerly enjoyed by the freemen was that of depasturing cattle upon the "Lammas Lands," which are of great antiquity; and there can be no doubt that at the time of their bestowal they were of great benefit to the inhabitants. The Lammas and Michaelmas Lands occupied about 2000 acres; the

Commons about 300 acres. Custom and usage have for a long time past treated these lands as belonging, with a few exceptional cases, to the freemen alone. The Lammas right was that of turning on three head of cattle from the 13th of August, or in the case of Michaelmas Lands, from Old Michaelmas day till Old Candlemas day. The common right existed throughout the year. As the right of turning cattle on the Lammas Lands was of practical use to only about one-tenth part of the freemen, and gave rise to many abuses, and much corruption (in what is called the "fathering of cattle"), many efforts were made from time to time to get this right commuted into some other form more likely to render service to the entire body of freemen, as well as to emancipate the land itself from a condition prejudicial to its cultivation, and injurious to the city, by presenting an obstacle to the progress of building. The disputes on this subject gave rise to fierce contentions and much bitterness, and in the year 1845 the matter had proceeded so far as the bringing in of a bill before Parliament for altering the Lammas right, or exchanging it for an equivalent; but the matter was not finally settled until some years ago, when we are glad to be able to state that the antagonism which had so long existed was put an end to by the sale of the Lammas and Michaelmas Lands, together with a lot of outlying portions in the neighbourhood of the city, the proceeds being appropriated to the Freemen's Seniority Fund. The Commons now remaining open are Earlsdon, Stivichall, Whitley. and Stoke.

#### THE FREEMEN'S SENIORITY FUND.

The Freemen's Seniority Fund was created, and is maintained from moneys invested, paid for land taken for public purposes, and from the rentals derived from that portion of land which was legally awarded to the freemen of Coventry as an equivalent for their herbage right over the whole of the old Lammas Lands of this city. The appropriation of the rental in weekly payments to the most aged freemen, according to their seniority on the enrolment book, has been made in pursuance of resolutions of the freemen at large, passed at public meetings of that body duly convened from year to year, together with resolutions embodying the conditions under



which these weekly payments are regulated; and according to which every recipient must appear personally at St. Mary's Hall, at twelve o'clock every Saturday, when the clerk to the Freeman's Trustees attends for that purpose. Any senior freeman residing within the Parliamentary boundary of Coventry may receive his money through the hands of some one he may appoint for the purpose from week to week, on production of a medical certificate of inability to attend personally, by reason of sickness; but living beyond the Parliamentary boundary, no such payment through deputy is admissible. The principle upon which this rule is justified is that, as the fund is the equivalent for the herbage right on the Lammas Land, and as no freeman residing beyond the Parliamentary boundary could avail himself of the herbage, it would be unfair to the resident aged freemen to pay the money, through deputies, to freemen living beyond the boundary, and some of them, probably, in all parts of the world. Were the present rule to be departed from, the consequence would be that freemen residing far away from Coventry, of whom little or nothing could be known with certainty, would get the weekly allowance remitted to them through other hands, and a corresponding number of the old resident freemen would have to give way. A freeman living at such a distance from Coventry as would have made it impossible for him to have made use of the herbage right, is from the same cause put beyond the reach of that which is now distributed weekly to the senior freemen from a fund created in lieu of the herbage right. Any freeman, however, who is entitled by seniority to his share from the fund, can have it by personally applying for it weekly at St. Mary's Hall, whatever may be the distance at which he resides from the city; but he cannot receive it through other hands, nor have it sent to him. The adoption of the seniority principle with these conditions is held to be the best way of dispensing the fund which could be devised: the young freemen generously support it; hundreds of families and the public generally share the benefit of it indirectly, and all freemen may reasonably expect to have the advantage of this little weekly payment in their old age. At the present time—the close of the year 1873—there are 142 recipients, whose ages are from 70 to 90 years. The first 32 on the list get

six shillings, and the remainder four shillings per week, and all of them, as before stated, attend at twelve o'clock every Saturday to be paid. There is a voluntary rule or understanding among the seniority men, that those receiving six shillings per week contribute one shilling each at the death of a member of their body, and the four shillings a-week men pay threepence each towards the funeral expenses of a deceased member.—Several aged widows of freemen receive three shillings a week.

The freedom of Coventry is acquired by serving seven years' apprenticeship faithfully to one and the same trade within the city or suburbs, and being duly sworn thereto.

Although the above particulars explain generally the nature of the Seniority Fund, and the regulations under which it is dispensed, it may be desirable to add that the fund really originated from money awarded as compensation to the freemen for their herbage right on land taken in 1828-9 for improving the Holyhead Turnpike road, and for other land taken a few years afterwards in the construction of the railway. These moneys, amounting together to £2,476, were invested, and trustees for the freemen appointed, to whom the interest of the same should be paid, and the Seniority Fund was actually instituted in 1843, at the end of which year the first payments were made to the six senior freemen, of six shillings each. The other part of the fund, before alluded to, derived from the land rents, did not come into distribution till some years subsequently, other trustees having been appointed for this part of the fund.—*Coventry Standard*, December 13th, 1873.

#### CORPORATION CHARTER, ETC.

The city received its first charter of incorporation from Edward III., dated 20th Jan., 1345; the first mayor was John Ward chosen in 1348. In 1384, Richard II. ordered the sword of state to be borne behind the mayor in civic processions as a mark of disgrace for his not having duly administered justice in the execution of his office, which order that monarch revoked in 1392. Under the charter of Edward III., confirmed in succeeding reigns, and extended in that of James I., the government was vested in a mayor, who acts as returning officer at elections, recorder, two sheriffs, a steward, who



must be a barrister, a coroner, two chamberlains, two wardens, ten aldermen, a superior council of thirty-one, and a second council, or grand inquest, of twenty-five members, assisted by a town-clerk, sword-bearer, mace-bearer, and subordinate officers, and remained so until the passing of the Corporation Reform Act, 9th September, 1835 (see Warwick, page 222), at which time the town was divided into five wards—viz., Gosford-street Ward, White Friars' Ward, Earl-street Ward, and Spon-street Ward, each having six representatives, two being elected by the burgesses annually, consequently sitting for three years. There are also two aldermen for each ward, who hold their seats for six years, and are chosen by the council, as is also the mayor. The offices of recorder and sheriff became extinct in 1842 on the amalgamation of the City and County with the County of Warwick.

#### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE CITY OF COVENTRY.

Henry William Eaton, Esq., *16, Prince's-gate, London, W., and Carlton, Junior Carlton, Marlborough, and Union Clubs, London, S.W., and Porter's Park, Shenley, Herts.*

Henry Mather Jackson, Esq., *Q.C., M.P., 7, Oxford Square, London.*

#### COVENTRY CORPORATION.

HENRY SODEN, ESQ., MAYOR AND RETURNING OFFICER, 5, Quadrant.

EX-MAYOR, W. H. HILL, ESQ., 17, Warwick-row.

#### ALDERMEN.

*Go out of Office in 1874.*

W. H. Hill, Esq.  
John Gulson, Esq.  
William Lynes, Esq.  
Henry Soden, Esq.  
H. R. Phillips, Esq.

*Go out of Office in 1877.*

Thomas Berry, Esq.  
Joseph Edge Banks, Esq.  
Thomas Jenkins, Esq.  
James Marriott, Esq.  
George Streetly, Esq.

## COUNCILLORS.

## SPON STREET WARD.

- 1 Mr. James Hart
- 1 Mr. Henry Scampton
- 2 Mr. John Scampton
- 2 Mr. James Eaves
- 3 Mr. Henry Hodgkinson
- 3 Mr. Arthur Seymour

## BISHOP STREET WARD.

- 1 Mr. J. Y. Betts
- 1 Mr. Samuel Berry
- 2 Mr. Thomas Loveitt
- 2 Mr. W. W. Chadwick
- 3 Mr. Henry Matterson
- 3 Mr. Edmund J. Rose

## GOSFORD STREET WARD.

- 1 Mr. J. B. Loudon
- 1 Mr. John Bill. .

- 2 Mr. George Hall Edwards
- 2 Mr. John Kelly
- 3 Mr. Edward Mattocks
- 3 Mr. James Farish

## EARL STREET WARD.

- 1 Mr. John Cash
- 1 Mr. A. K. Dunn
- 2 Mr. Charles J. Hill
- 2 Mr. Thomas Beech
- 3 Mr. Andrew Bell
- 3 Mr. Charles Read

## WHITE FRIARS' WARD.

- 1 Mr. Joseph Caldicott
- 1 R. A. Dalton, Esq.
- 2 Mr. Thomas Page Johnson
- 2 Mr. George Lloyd
- 3 Mr. H. M. Jackson
- 3 Mr. J. E. Breward

*1, Remain in office one year ; 2, two years ; 3, three years*

TOWN CLERK—THOMAS BROWETT, Esq.

TREASURER—Joseph Mountfort, Esq.

CITY SURVEYOR—Mr. Edward James Purnell.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Mr. John Norris

ACCOUNTANT CLERK—Mr. Henry Lea.

GAS ANALYST—Mr. Edward Powers.

AUDITOR—Mr. Henry Mander, jun.

BAILIFF—Mr. John Twitty Eburne.

COLLECTOR OF WATER RATES, St. Michael's Parish—J. Foster.

„ „ Holy Trinity Parish—J. Ludford.

INSPECTOR OF WATER SERVICES—Henry Whiteman.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES AND MAYOR'S CRIER—A. Webster.

COLLECTOR OF MARKET TOLLS—Solomon Eagleton.

COLLECTOR OF SMITHFIELD TOLLS—George Baddeley.

COLLECTOR OF GENERAL DISTRICT RATES, St. Michael's Parish—  
T. Pratt.

„ „ „ Holy Trinity Parish—Paul Smith.

SWORD BEARER AND HALL KEEPER—David Laurance.



CORONER—Thomas Dewes, Esq. ; *office, Hay-lane.*

DEPUTY CORONER—Thomas Dewes, junr., Esq.

REGISTRAR AND SUPERINTENDENT OF CEMETERY—Mr. Walter Dawson.

CHAMBERLAIN—William Taunton.

BATH KEEPER—George Wallace.

TOWN CRIER—Thomas Lower.

### SCHOOL BOARD.

This Board was elected under the “Elementary Education Act, 1870,” in 1871. The following gentlemen constitute its present members :—

John Gulson, Esq. (*Chairman*), W. Lynes, Esq. (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Mr. J. Astley, Mr. F. Bird, Mr. L. S. Booth, Mr. D. G. Barnes, Mr. J. Bill, Mr. W. Franklin, Mr. W. H. Hill, Mr. W. Odell, Mr. J. Rotherham, junr., *Clerk* ; T. H. Kirby, Esq., Little Park-street.

*The School Board meets in the Mayoress's Parlour. St. Mary's Hall, on alternate Thursdays, at 12 o'clock ; Mr. W. Jarrams, 67, Yardley-street, visiting officer.*

POLICE OFFICE.—This formerly stood in the Women's Butter Market, but on the erection of the new Courts near to St. Mary's Hall it was removed, the new Market Hall buildings occupying its site. It is a neat building of red brick, erected in 1857. The new courts adjoin St. Mary's Hall on the eastern side with which they communicate by means of a corridor, and consist of a commodious court, with waiting and other rooms attached, the prisoners' cells and police offices occupying an adjoining situation in St. Mary's-street. In the windows of the court are representations in stained glass of the monograms of the magistrates who were sitting at the time of its erection. There are eight cells. The police force consists of one chief superintendent, two inspectors, one clerk, one detective sergeant, four sergeants, and 29 constables. Chief Superintendent, John Norris ; Inspectors, Benjamin Collis and Charles Benjamin Elms ; Detective Inspector, William Sheasby ; Clerk, Richard Olibar Coombs ; Sergeants, Henry Robinson, William Frankton, Richard Wyatt, and John Gregory.

The Engine Station of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, St. Mary's-street, is under the care of the police, and contains a steam fire-engine, manual engine, hose reel and fire escape ; Thomas Loveitt, *Captain*.

The *Sun Fire Office* Station is at Warwick-lane ; John Ward, *agent*.

The COUNTY HALL, Bailey-lane, is a neat modern building, faced with stone, and ornamented with pillars of the Tuscan order, rising from a rustic basement, and supporting a handsome cornice in the centre of the front. Adjoining is the keeper's (formerly the gaoler's) house, a neat building of brick. The Grand Jury Room is a neat apartment. The greater part of the old gaol has been removed and its site occupied by the New Free Library. Mr. Thomas Baker is the hall keeper.

The Assizes were, until July 10, 1854, held at Warwick and Coventry alternately, when an Act of Parliament was passed by which it was enacted that "the assizes for the county are no longer to be held alternately at Warwick and Coventry, but at Warwick only ; and the exemption of jurors of Coventry from serving anywhere but in that city is repealed."

By the Act of 1st of William IV., chapter 70, it is enacted that the Justices of the Peace in every County or Riding, or Division, for which Quarter Sessions of the Peace by law ought to be held, shall hold their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in the first weeks after October 11th and December 28th, March 31st, and June 24th. The Quarter Sessions invariably commence at Warwick on the Tuesday, and are adjourned and continued at Coventry on the Thursday of the above weeks.

#### COUNTY MAGISTRATES.

Capt. Adams, R.N., <i>Anstey</i>	Washington Jackson, Esq., <i>Easonhall Hall.</i>
J. Becch, Esq., <i>Brandon</i>	R. Lant, Esq.
R. L. De Barry, Esq.	P. A. Muntz, Esq., <i>Keresley</i>
W. D. Bromley-Davenport, Esq., <i>Baginton Hall</i>	T. S. Morris, Esq., <i>Stoke</i>
A. Carter, Esq.	A. H. Pears, Esq., <i>Allesley</i>
J. Darlington, Esq., <i>Meriden</i> <i>Hall</i>	E. Petre, Esq., <i>Whitey Abbey</i>
Jno. Gulson, Esq., <i>Priory-row</i>	Clerk—T. H. Kirby, Esq. ; <i>office,</i> <i>Little Park-street</i>

*The Magistrates sit at the County Hall on Fridays at 11.30 a.m.*



## CITY MAGISTRATES.

Henry Soden, Esq., Mayor  
 Edward Dewes, Esq., M.D.  
 George Startin, Esq.  
 Thomas S. Morris, Esq.  
 A. B. Herbert, Esq.  
 William Odell, Esq.  
 A. H. Pears, Esq.  
 Samuel Vale, Esq.  
 John Gulson, Esq.  
 James Marriott, Esq.  
 William Lynes, Esq.

Francis Wyley, Esq.  
 Joseph Odell, Esq.  
 William Henry Hill, Esq.  
 Thomas Berry, Esq.  
 Edward Petre, Esq.  
 Richard Caldicott, Esq.  
 Thomas Jenkins, Esq.  
 William Carter, Esq.  
 Robert Arnold Dalton, Esq.  
 John Rotherham, jun., Esq.  
 Edward Lynes, Esq. M.D.,

*Magistrates' Clerk*—J. B. Twist, Esq. ; *office*, Hertford-street.

PETTY SESSIONS are held at the NEW POLICE COURT, St. Mary's Hall, St. Mary's-street, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at 11 o'clock.

## ST. MARY'S HALL.

This hall is situated in Bailey-lane, and is appropriated to the larger meetings and civic entertainments of the Corporation. It is a beautiful structure in the later style of English architecture. It was built for the master and wardens of St. Mary's Guild, and was completed as it now stands about the year 1414, for the use of the united fraternities afterwards called Trinity Guild. The buildings are arranged round a court. The exterior, with its richly decorated windows and elaborately groined archway, adjoining which is a room formerly used by the Mercer's Guild, has an imposing grandeur of effect. The interior, which is replete with the richest ornaments of the perpendicular style, comprises a splendid banquet hall, 76 feet 6 inches in length, 30 feet wide, and 34 feet high, adorned with well-painted portraits of Charles II., Queen Mary, and other sovereigns who have been entertained within its walls. There is also a modern painting of Bacchus and Ariadne, given by the late Edward Ellice, Esq., in 1855, M.P. for Coventry. The side windows, the tracery of which is elegant, are embellished with modern stained glass by Pemberton of Birming-

ham. The ancient stained glass of these windows has been removed. Those on the east side represent the Earl and Countess of Warwick, Thomas Arundel, and Richard Waldon ; and those on the west, the Bishops of Lichfield and Coventry, and Coventry and Lichfield. On the west side is a beautiful oriel window, enriched with stained glass. The north window contains most of its ancient glass, but much disarranged.

Mr. Fretton, a local antiquarian, says :—" It requires but a little stretch of the imagination to re-people this grand old room with its mediæval occupants, where successive generations of the brethren of Trinity Guild discussed matters connected with their interest, or feasted on their days of high rejoicing. Here were entertained kings and princes (for the guild numbered among its members royal and noble personages), and here, during her brief sojourn in Coventry, it is probable that the unfortunate Mary, Queen of Scots, spent some solitary hours. Later on its walls reverberated with the sounds of revelry at the old corporation banquets, and at present it is chiefly used for the holding of such meetings as are approved of by the Mayor for the time being, and tending to promote the intellectual and social welfare and enjoyment of the citizens."

On the walls are several Latin inscriptions. The original oaken roof is still entire, and on it are beautifully carved figures playing instruments of music, and other devices. Underneath the great north window, is a very fine piece of tapestry, 36 feet long and 10 feet wide, elegantly worked in compartments and embellished with representations of Henry VI. and his Queen, Margaret ; Duke Humphrey, and principal members of their court. At the west end is the Minstrels' Gallery, on the front of which hangs some ancient city armour. On the east wall, near the *Mayoress's Parlour*, is a monumental brass, dated 1568, on which are engraved the Royal, Coventry, and Northumberland arms. It relates to the park which was bequeathed by the Duke of Northumberland to the inhabitants of the city of Coventry, and confirmed by Elizabeth, but it is now in the possession of H. W. Eaton, Esq., M.P. for this city, by whom it has been purchased from the Marquis of Hertford. On the east side of the hall is a



corridor forming an approach to the new Police Court and Office, and great hall. The hall was generally repaired in 1826. Beneath the hall is a large crypt in two compartments.

The *Mayoress's Parlour*, situated over the porch, is fitted up in the ancient style, and is now used by the City Council. It contains well-painted portraits of Queen Elizabeth, Charles I., James I., John Hales, Mary Stuart; Sir Thomas White, Lord Mayor of London (1555), founder of Magdalen College, Oxford, and benefactor to this city; and a model and picture of the Countess Godiva. The most remarkable piece of furniture of this parlour is an ancient chair of state, elaborately carved, and formerly a double one, supposed to have been used on important occasions by the Mayor and Master of the Guild for the time being. There are also several other ancient chairs. The other portions of the building comprise the kitchens, which are older than the great hall, adjoining which is the tower much reduced in height, the room in the second story of which forms the treasury or manuscript room of the Corporation, in which and in a room adjoining is preserved one of the finest collections of documents extant, rich in curious caligraphy, armorial seals, and merchants' marks. We are informed that these documents are in course of classification according to date by Dr. Howard, D.C.L. At the bottom of the steps leading to the great hall is a stone figure, said to have been one of the statues of the kings which ornamented Coventry Cross. Mr. David Laurance is the hall keeper.

#### THE DRAPERS' HALL.

This is also situated in Bailey-lane, and is a neat building with stone front in the Grecian style of architecture, of chaste and pleasing design; opened November 8, 1832. It is chiefly devoted to the meetings and festive assemblies of the Drapers' Company, who grant the use of the hall occasionally to parties, and for purposes for which they approve, having a strict regard to the preservation of the property from injury. In the interior is a splendid orchestra, on which are represented the arms of the company. Mr. Thomas Iliffe is the hall keeper.

## ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT.

Coventry formerly formed jointly a diocese with Lichfield. By the plans of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry has been reduced, and Coventry now forms an Archdeaconry in the Diocese of Worcester. A list of the parishes contained in the Archdeaconry, with the remainder of the parishes contained in the entire Diocese of Worcester, will be found given at page 42. Of the Cathedral, founded in the 12th century, and once a sumptuous monastery, founded by Leofric, of which, at the dissolution, the revenue was £731 19s. 5d., some fine remains are now discernible, consisting chiefly of the basement of the great western front, comprising very handsome semi-pillars, which was discovered at the excavating for foundations for the erection of the new buildings of the Girls' Blue Coat School, in 1857, which has been attached to the remains of the N.W. tower of the Priory Church or Cathedral. Other portions of the conventual buildings are traceable in Hill Top, New Buildings, and in the wood yard near. In the cellar of Mr. Collins, Priory Row, may be seen portions of the walling.

## CHURCHES.

The objects which first attract the attention of visitors to this ancient city, are the three churches, with their "three tall spires," which Tennyson saw as he passed on the London and North-Western Railway. They form conspicuous objects in the distance, and the first which demands our attention is—

The CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL is first noticed in a charter of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, in the reign of King Stephen, when it was known by the name of the Chapel of St. Michael. It was granted by him to the monks of the Priory at Coventry, and confirmed by his son Hugh. The tithes of the Coventry estates and rents, belonging to Ranulph, were given by him for the repose of his soul and those of his ancestors, and he called upon all his officers and servants to contribute to them annually. By an agreement, dated from Warwick, June 29, 1248, it was enacted that the Prior should purchase from the Bishop his



interest, and that he (the Bishop) should resign the patronage of the churches at Ryton and Bubbenhall, and appropriate them as prebends to the Lichfield Cathedral. It was also declared that after, the death of the priests of the above churches, the monks should secure the services of secular priests and others, to whom a liberal stipend should be allowed. The Bishop's official and Archdeacon together with two other persons for the Prior, allotted 24 marks per annum to the Church of St. Michael, derived "out of the fruits of the church." The Prior and Convent were also to pay four marks out of the said fruits to the Archdeacon of Coventry, for his procurations. It was also agreed that 30 marks, the sum anciently received by the Cathedral of Lichfield out of the profits of this church, should be paid out of the Rectory of Southam, which was then in the patronage of the same monks, at the Feasts of St. Michael and Easter. Not a remnant of the original structure now remains.

The present edifice appears to have been mostly erected about the end of the fourteenth and the beginning of the fifteenth centuries. It is a splendid structure, principally in the latter style of English architecture, the principal feature being its beautiful and matchless steeple, consisting of a tower of four stages, rising immediately from the ground to a height of 303 feet, from a basement, inclusive of the buttresses of 42 feet. The buttresses terminate in richly wrought pinnacles, from which spring eight flying buttresses, supporting the angles of an octagonal lantern, rising from the interior of the battlement to a height of 30 feet 9 inches, surmounted by a graceful spire of 130 feet more. The tower contains a peal of ten bells, which is accounted one of the finest peals in the kingdom. Bells were first hung in St. Michael's steeple in 1429. In 1774, the eight bells were cast into ten, by Pack and Chapman, and hung by R. Turner, of London. The weight amounted to 6 tons 18 cwt. 3 qrs. 3lbs. In 1779, a new set of chimes was erected by Worton, of Birmingham, at a cost of £300. The bells were re-hung in 1794, upon a stupendous and most ingenious wooden framework, rising from the ground, and altogether unconnected with the walls, in order to avoid damage thereto. The expense was £3,752. They were again re-hung upon this framework, on an improved plan, in 1804. The tenor was re-cast by

Briant, of Hereford ; it weighs 32 cwt. The harmonious chimes play every three hours some lively melody or solemn hymn. The tower is panelled and ornamented with niches, those in the upper story being embellished with finely sculptured figures of saints. The tower is also embellished with window openings and sculptured canopies. It is said to have been erected by two brothers, William and Adam Botoner, by whom it was completed in 1394 ; the erection of the same having occupied 21 years. They are said to have expended £100 yearly upon the work. Two sisters of the same family, Ann and Mary Botoner, are said to have built the spire, 40 years later. In 1434, they also erected the middle aisle. As the tower, spire, and church came forth from the hands of the builders, they must have been beautiful in the extreme, but in consequence of the soft sandy material employed (the district sandstone), most of the embellishments of the tower have disappeared. It is very questionable whether the entire kingdom supplies a better specimen as a parish church. The interior consists of nave, chancel, aisles, and a number of chapels, formerly separated from the body of the church by screens, but now entirely thrown open to the church. Its interior dimensions are as follows : entire length about 240 feet ; greatest breadth about 120 feet ; the height of the nave is about 50 feet. The interior is finely arranged, and derives great beauty from the loftiness of its elevation, and the delicacy of the columns and arches which support the roof. The clerestory windows, nineteen in number, form a noble range of large dimensions, rich in perpendicular tracery, and are ornamented with ancient stained glass. New mullions and stained glass were placed in the chancel clerestory windows, in 1865. The chancel is of earlier date, to which the nave and aisles were subsequently added ; it deviates from a straight line, and forms an angle with the line of the nave, and terminates in a five sided apse. The roof is open, and is a fine specimen of timber. Over the south porch there is a small but ancient room belonging to the Capper's Company, in which they meet once every year, to transact the business of the Guild ; and in the evening the Master gives a dinner. In 1803, Mr. Richard Burgh, a native of Coventry, left, by will, £1,000 for the purpose of new pewing the church. The legacy was paid in 1817, and in 1849-50 the old galleries



were taken away, and open sittings of oak, the ends of which are richly carved, substituted. In 1859, an additional number of sittings for 300 persons were erected, the pulpit was removed from the pillar on the north side to one on the south, and the organ placed at the extremity of the west end. Since then the church has been lit with gas, the fittings being the work of Messrs. Skidmore and Co., art metal workers, and recently a beautiful corona has been added from the Midland Art Metal Works. In 1869, a new pulpit was erected, by Robert A. Dalton, Esq., in memory of his son, Ernest Edward Dalton. The principal portion of the pulpit is constructed of wrought iron, and the other of polished brass. A new and beautiful eagle lectern was erected at the end of the chancel in 1867. The expense was defrayed from a legacy left by the late J. Royle, Esq. Around the base are the figures of the Four Evangelists, with two Maltese crosses, handsomely engraved in brass. The reading desk, a neat structure of iron, was erected at the north side of the chancel in 1870. The interior of the chancel was restored in 1866, from designs by G. E. Street, Esq., F.R.S., when the floor was laid with encaustic tiles, and marble steps and handsome brass rail erected. The communion table is a beautiful structure of carved oak, with a marble top. A new frontal was added in 1866. In 1871, two handsome candlesticks, for the communion table, were presented by the Vicar, as a thank-offering, on his resigning the Bishopric of Madagascar; and, in 1872, the cross was the gift of Mrs. H. W. Eaton, to commemorate the marriage of her eldest son. A handsome alms-dish has been presented to the church by H. W. Eaton, Esq., M.P. A few years ago, a beautifully designed reredos, of Caen stone, was erected at the east end, the five compartments of which are adorned with groups of sculptured figures. On the south side is the baptistery, the floor of which is of tessellated pavement. In 1869, a beautifully designed font, in Caen stone, was erected by George Alexander Pridmore, Esq., in memory of his brother, Walter Pridmore. The Baptistery windows are filled with stained glass. The only monument in Coventry bearing recumbent effigies is in this church, to the memory of Ralph Swillington and his two wives. He was recorder of the city in 1515. There are several monumental brasses. One of them is to the memory of Thomas

Bond, who, as the inscription informs us, “ was sometime mayor of this cittie, and founder of the hospitall of Bablake, who gave divers lands and tenements for the maintenance of ten poore men so long as the world shall endure, and a woman to look to them, with many other good gifts, and dyed the XVIII day of March, in the year of our Lord God MDVI.” Another brass is near the south porch, to the memory of Captain Gervase Scrope, who died of the gout. On the plate is inscribed the following inscription and curious epitaph :—

“ Here lies the body of Captain Gervase Scrope of the family of the Scropes of Bilton in the county of York who departed this life 26th Aug Anno Dni 1705 aged 66. An Epitaph written by himself in the agony and doloroes paines of the Gout and died soon after

Here lies an OLD toss'd tennis BALL,  
Was racketted from spring to fall,  
With so much heat and so much hast,  
Times arms for shame grew tyr'd at last,  
Four kings in CAMPS he truly serv'd  
And from his loyalty ne'er swerv'd,  
Father ruin'd, the son slighted,  
And from the CROWN ne'r requited  
Loss of ESTATE, RELATIONS, BLOOD,  
Was too well-known, but did no good.  
With long CAMPAIGNS and paines o' th' GOUT,  
He coud no longer hold it out,  
Always a restless life he led,  
Never at quiet till quite dead.  
He marry'd in his latter dayes  
ONE who exceeds the com'on praise,  
But wanting health still to make known,  
Her true AFFECTION and his OWN,  
Death kindly came, all wants supply'd,  
By giving REST which life deny'd.”

Many of the windows of this church are embellished with stained glass, amongst which we may mention the following :—The three eastern windows, which are to the memory of Queen Adelaide, were erected in 1853, at a cost of £700, defrayed by voluntary contributions from the citizens and the nobility and gentry of the surrounding neighbourhood. They represent the Annunciation, Ascension, and other subjects. The centre eastern window was given by



Edward Ellice, Esq., late M.P. for Coventry, to commemorate his long connection with the city as its representative in Parliament. It was erected in 1853. The two outside windows of the apse are filled with ancient stained glass. In the niches between the windows are figures of the four Evangelists, and on the side nearest the church figures of angels. The north-east window is to the memory of Colonel the Hon. Francis Grosvenor Hood, who, as the inscription informs us, fell in the trenches before Sevastopol, Oct. 18th, 1854, aged 45. This window was erected in 1857, and the cost defrayed by subscription. The next window on the north side was given by H. W. Eaton, Esq., M.P. for Coventry, and erected in 1869; the subject is "Scenes in the Life of King Solomon." The second window on the north side is "In memory of the great and good Albert Edward Prince Consort, who entered into immortality, Dec., 1861;" the subject is, "Scenes in the Life of Moses," The third window on the north side is "In memory of William, second Earl of Craven, and eighth Baron Craven, who departed this life August 25, 1866, aged 57 years." Subject: "Scenes in the Life of King David." The south-east window is to the memory of Major-General Adams, late of Anstey Hall, who fell at Inkermann, in the Crimea, and died 19th December, 1855. It was erected in 1859. The subjects are our Saviour and the twelve Apostles, and St. Michael. The second window on the south side was erected in 1868, and is in memory of Thomas Sharp, local antiquarian, "who entered into rest August 12th, 1841, aged 72." The subjects are the Faithful Servant, the Good Samaritan, the Pharisee and the Publican, and the Pearl of Great Price. The third window on the south side is the gift of the Misses Lea. It represents the ten virgins, and on the window is the inscription, "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamp and went forth to meet the bridegroom; five of them were wise, and five of them were foolish." Near Sharp's window is a window, under which is a plate bearing the following inscription: "This window was erected by the churchwardens and vestrymen of this parish, to the memory of the late Henry Lea, Esq., who bequeathed £1,000 to this church for ever." The subjects are St. Stephen, St. Paul, St. Mark, St. Luke. In the compartment at the top of the

window is an angel, in whose hand is a scroll with the inscription "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." On the south side there is also a window to the memory of the Rev. William Spooner, M.A., late archdeacon of Coventry, who died in 1857. The subjects are "Scenes in the life of Moses." In the baptistery are three windows in remembrance of Richard Caldicott, Esq., J.P., and his wife, erected by their children. The organ is a fine instrument, situated at the west end of the church, originally built by Swarbrick, of Germany, in 1733, and partly rebuilt in 1836. The interior of the church contains sittings for about 3,000 people; and on a Sunday evening, when filled with a large congregation, and illumined with gas from between 400 and 500 jets, it presents a most brilliant and impressive spectacle not easily obliterated from the memory of an intelligent person. In the vestry are some antique oak furnishings, and a good portrait of the late Rev. Robert Simpson, who held the vicarage for 53 years. Externally the church has been partially restored, the only portions untouched being the chancel and the steeple, the latter of which greatly needs a restoration. The churchyard has been enclosed and planted, a double row of lime trees in vigorous growth forming an avenue down the centre. There are a number of charities belonging to this church, chiefly consisting of sums bequeathed for distributing Bibles, bread, and clothing to the poor. In 1291 this church was, including its chapels, valued at 50 marks\* per annum. The living is a vicarage, which was then valued at 8½ marks per annum. In 1534 it was valued at £65 10s. 6d. per annum, of which a sum of £2 15s. 4d. was annually received for procurations by the Archdeacon of Coventry—a sum of £5 per annum was also paid as a pension to the Prior of Coventry, and a sum of £1 13s. 4d. to the chapter of Lichfield. The vicarage is valued in the King's books at £25 15s. 5d., now £300, in the patronage of the Crown and incumbency of the Rev. Robert Hall Baynes, M.A., of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, and Hon. Canon of Worcester. The curates are the Rev. S. B. Bathe, M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, and the Rev. Robert J. Duncan, B.A., of Wadham College, Oxford.

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\* The value of a mark was 13s. 4d.



In 1873 a large and handsome *Vicarage House* was erected of brick, with stone dressings, on the Warwick road, at a cost of £2,400, partly subscribed by the parishioners, as an offering to the present vicar on his resigning the bishopric of Madagascar and part (£500) a loan derived from Queen Anne's bounty. The land was given to the vicar and wardens by the Marquis of Hertford.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH is supposed to have been founded at a somewhat later period than St. Michael's, but the precise date cannot be fixed with certainty, though it seems evident that a church existed here about the thirteenth century and was then appropriated to the adjacent Priory. This church is certainly very handsome and imposing, but its importance is marred from its being situated so near St. Michael's. Fuller, in speaking of the comparison, quaintly says, "How clearly they would have shined if set at a competent distance! Whereas now, such is their vicinity that the Archangel eclipseth the Trinity!" Notwithstanding its close proximity to St. Michael's, it is a venerable and imposing cruciform structure in the later style of English architecture. The tower is well proportioned, rising from the intersection of the nave, chancel, and transepts, and surmounted by a handsome octagonal spire, the whole rising from the ground to a height of 232 feet. A large wooden structure has been erected on the site of the Cathedral nave in Priory-row as a belfry, in which there is a peal of eight bells. The proportions of the interior are massive, and preserves throughout an unity of design. It consists of chancel, nave, transepts, and north and south aisles. Before the Reformation there were in this church, as in that of St. Michael's, a number of chapels and altars; many curious and ancient records referring to the services held in them are preserved in the archives of the city and in the church books. The Marler Chapel on the north side is now thrown open to the church. The dimensions of the interior are as follows:—Greatest length a little over 180 feet; greatest breadth about 105 feet within. The nave is separated from the aisles by three and a half massive arches, the semi-arch resting against the tower. The north porch is a very ancient and handsome structure, its roof being elaborately groined, and the doorways very deeply recessed. On the eastern side is a small doorway, now disused, which was formerly the en-

trance to the chapel of St. Thomas. The sides of the exterior of the porch are pannelled, and above it is a room to which ingress is gained from the church by means of a steep stone stair in the wall. The western porch was re-erected in 1844. The clerestory of the nave is lighted by nine windows of two lights on each side. The oak roof is divided into panels elaborately decorated in gold and colour; the roof is supported by massive pillars and arches. The pulpit is of stone, attached to the south-east pier of the tower, and is said to be one of the finest in the kingdom. The font is an old structure coeval with the church and richly illumined in gold and colour. In the year 1831, in the course of cleaning the church, a fine and very extraordinary fresco painting was discovered in the space above the springing of the arch under the tower and extending to the roof. It is a curious representation of the "Last Judgment," and is valuable, and as a relic is interesting from its antiquity. In 1843 the external restoration was commenced, and continued round the north and west sides. In 1855 and the following year, the restoration and repairing of the interior were carried out, all the galleries were removed, and open sittings of carved oak substituted, the roof being illumined at the same time; the lantern under the central tower was also opened out, and forms an important feature in the alterations. Various other works have been completed since, embracing the opening out of closed arches and the construction of new ones. The eagle lectern is a fine structure of brass. There are suitable desks for the clergy at the west-end of the choir and in the chancel are some oak stalls. In 1871 the choir was re-seated with carved oak seats. In 1872 a new and noble organ was erected in a chamber built expressly for it on the south side of the choir. In 1873 a new reredos was erected at the east end "To the honour and glory of God, and in the memory of the late Mr. John Bill," at expense of Mrs. Bill. It is a beautiful structure in Caen stone, designed by Sir G. G. Scott, the sculptured portion of which stands upon what has been built as a retable, at a height of 4 feet from the floor, and 7 feet 6 inches from the level of the church. It comprises three principal compartments, between and at the ends of which are angels standing on richly sculptured pedestals and with their faces turning towards the centre, holding in their hands



the sacred emblems of the Passion. The compartments contain representations, on the north side, of "The visit of the Magi;" in the centre "The Crucifixion;" and on the south side "The Ascension." A canopy in the early English style, embellished with tracery, pinnacles, and flying buttresses, surmounts the work, the whole of which is crowned by a Maltese Cross. The Communion Table is of 17th century work; a beautiful set of brass standards have recently been placed upon the table in lieu of those given by Dr. Hook. Within the Communion rails, on each side of the chancel, are sedilia, or seats for the clergy. There are but few monuments in this church, the most interesting one, perhaps, being to Dr. Philemon Holland, which was formerly fixed on the south wall of the choir, but is now in the Archdeacon's court, who exercised the double profession of a schoolmaster and physician in this city. Priding himself on having written a large book with one pen only, he thus commemorates the circumstance :—

" With one sole pen I wrote this book,  
 Made of a grey goose quill ;  
 A pen it was when I it took,  
 A pen I leave it still ! "

In the Archdeacon's court there is also a beautiful monument to the memory of the Rev. John Howell, a late vicar, erected by Mrs. Howell. An angel bearing a scroll is elaborately sculptured thereon. There is also a monument to the memory of Viscount Lifford. On the wall of the Archdeacon's court there is a monumental brass to the memory of John Whithead, a citizen. It contains the figures of his two wives and nine children, and is supposed to have been erected in the time of Elizabeth. The large east window is beautifully enriched with stained glass, and at the west end there is an inscription which says :—"The east window of this church was erected to the honour and glory of God, and in memory of Richard Sawrey Cox, Esq., a native of this parish, who departed this life in London, July 31st, in the year of our Lord, MDCCCLIII., aged LXXIV." Near the inscription there is a board on which are inscribed a list of this gentleman's charitable bequests to Coventry, amounting to £12,156. The subject of the window is "The six

acts of Mercy." The central compartment of the south transept windows is filled with stained glass, to the memory of Edward Phillips, Esq., an active parishioner, who died in 1855. The subjects are "Christ bearing his Cross," "The Crucifixion," "The Angel at the Sepulchre," with other subjects. There are also windows to the memories of Mr. James Wall, an old citizen and a member of Trinity vestry; to Mr. William Coleman and his family, and Mrs. Margaret Edge Banks. In one of the windows in the Marler's Chapel there is some of the ancient stained glass which originally represented the Earl Leofrie and his Countess Godiva. There are vestries on each side; in that on the south are preserved some ancient registers and other documents, and a good half length portrait of Dr. Hook, who formerly held the vicarage. The vestry on the north is very ancient, and is supposed to have been a chapel; it is used as a receptacle for the choristers' surplices. On the 18th of July, 1858, the first ordination held in this city since the Reformation took place in this church. The register dates from the year 1561. The living is a vicarage, valued in the King's Books at £10, now £650, in the patronage of the Lord Chancellor, and incumbency of the Rev. Francis Morton Beaumont, M.A., of St. John's College, Oxford. The curates are the Rev. Edward A. Hardy, B.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, and the Rev. Robert P. Roberts, B.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge.

This church is rich in estates bequeathed for its benefit, and which, at the present time, yield about £1,100 per annum. On the wall of the south vestry hangs an old board, on which is inscribed a list of charities bequeathed to the church; it records 20 gift sermons. There are also numerous charities left to be disposed of by the churchwardens and overseers in various modes for the relief of the poor.

The VICARAGE is a large and handsome residence, pleasantly situated in St. Nicholas-street, erected in 1839.

The SERVICES held in the churches of St. Michael, Holy Trinity, and St. John's, are choral, each having a surpliced choir. Mr. Edward Simms is organist of St. Michael's, Mr. William Chater of Holy Trinity, and Mr. Frederic Anson of St. John's.



RADFORD CHURCH, Trinity Parish.—A new church is now being erected at Radford as a Chapel-of-Ease to the parish church of Holy Trinity. It will be a neat structure of stone, the cost of which is to be defrayed by subscription.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, Fleet-street, was formerly a chapel of the Guild of St. John the Baptist, erected in 1350 in honour of the Saviour; the district was constituted a parish by Act of Parliament in 1734. It was formerly collegiate, and built upon ground given by Isabella, wife of Edward II. In the grant, dated at "Risyns," she declared that in the services to be therein held masses shall be sung daily for the soul of *her dear Lord Edward, late King of England*, among other persons of her family, thereby hoping, no doubt, to justify herself with the world and satisfy her own conscience for the share she had had in causing him the bitter miseries which terminated at Berkeley. The church is an interesting structure, in the Perpendicular style, quadrangular in the lower part, and cruciform in the upper. From the centre rises a square embattled tower, with circular turrets at the angles, and supported on four finely-clustered piers and arches of singular beauty. The interior consists of nave, chancel, aisles, and transept. In 1841, the beautiful west window was restored in its original character, and during 1846 the stone-work of the same window was renewed in corresponding good taste. A finely executed font was erected in 1843.

In 1857 steps were taken for the external restoration of the edifice, which were carried out to the extent of re-casing the choir, its aisles, and clerestory, the tower, and transepts; from lack of funds, however, the work has been suspended. The interior is in sad want of restoration; it is filled with unsightly pews and galleries, and the floor is much raised above its original level. The east window, which is very fine, was enriched with stained glass in 1860, at the expense of R. K. Rotherham, Esq. A new organ was erected in 1870. New altar rails were erected in 1871 by subscription. The date of the Register is about the year 1730, when the church was re-seated. The living is a rectory, value £180, in the patronage of J. Cunninghame, Esq., and incumbency of the Rev. Thomas Sheepshanks, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge. The

curates are the Rev. James Selwood Tanner, M.A., and Rev. J. Dixy. This living was formerly attached to the head mastership of the Free Grammar School, the second master being lecturer here. The connection was severed in accordance with a scheme agreed upon in 1857—the then master, the Rev. T. Sheepshanks, receiving a pension of £420 a year and retaining his rectory, a new master being appointed to the Grammar School. There are a few charitable bequests connected with this church for distribution in bread and clothing to the poor.

CHRIST CHURCH, Union-street, Warwick-road, was erected by subscription and a grant from the Parliamentary Commissioners in 1832. It is a pleasing and well-built edifice; the south-west front of which is in the decorated style of architecture, having a fine arched doorway in the centre, with a small one on each side, and windows over them, the whole being surmounted with pinnacles and a cross. This church has been added to the ancient steeple of the church of the Grey Friars, the brethren of which were famous for the representation of religious dramas. It was originally founded in 1234, and the church built in 1358, for which Edward, the Black Prince, granted the Friars permission to take stone from the quarries in his park at Cheylesmore. The monastery was destroyed at the dissolution, its only remains being the very beautiful steeple, consisting of an octagonal tower, with a pierced parapet, from which rises a lofty and finely proportioned octagonal spire; the height is 201 feet 3 inches. After the destruction of the monastery, centuries ago, this steeple stood alone until the erection of the present church, serving as a landmark to the inhabitants of the surrounding country. In the tower is one bell. In 1771 the spire was repaired, and a new gilt ball and vane placed on its summit, and the vane was taken down and re-gilt in 1829. The erection of the church was commenced the following year. The interior of the church consists of nave, aisles, and galleries. It is neatly fitted up with pews, and contains 1,500 sittings, 900 of which are free. The nave is 101 feet in length. The choir and communion are situated under the tower. There is a good organ, built by Banfield, of Birmingham, in 1846. The register dates from the opening of the church. The living is a curacy, value £175, in



the patronage of the Vicar of St. Michael's, and incumbency of the Rev. Henry Truman Harris, B.A., of Queen's College, Cambridge.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, St. Peter's-street, Hillfields, is a neat brick edifice, in the later English style of architecture, with a square tower at the west end, erected in 1841, on land given by Mr. Charles Weston, of Corley, by whom the first stone was laid. The structure was made a district church in 1852. The building is 131 feet 6 inches long, and 56 feet 8 inches wide. The interior is neatly fitted up with pews, and consists of nave, chancel, and aisles. It contains 1,254 sittings, and a board in the porch informs us that "in consequence of a grant from the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels, six hundred and ninety-five of that number are hereby declared to be free and unappropriated for ever." There is a good organ. At the west end is a mural tablet to the memory of Margaret Louisa, wife of the Rev. Annesley Paul Hughes, M.A., the first incumbent of this church. The register dates from 1841. The living is a vicarage, value £300, in the patronage of the Vicar of Holy Trinity, and incumbency of the Rev. George Tabberer, M.A., for whom there is a neat residence at the top of Vernon street.

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, The Butts, is a very neat and substantial stone structure, in the perpendicular style of architecture, with a turret containing one bell, erected in 1849, at a cost of £4,000, raised by subscription, to which the present vicar (Dr. Cragg) and his family liberally contributed, and aided by a grant of £1,200 from the Church Building Societies. The stone was given by Lord Leigh, from a quarry in the neighbourhood. The interior, consisting of nave, chancel, aisles, and north porch, is fitted up with open seats, in the Cathedral style, and contains 600 sittings, upwards of 400 of which are free. The register dates from 1849. The living is a vicarage, value £300, in the alternate patronage of the Crown and Bishop, and incumbency of the Rev. Stephen Cragg, D.D., of Magdalen College, Oxford. The Rev. George Cuffe, M.A., is curate. The parish, as legally constituted, comprises the whole of Spon End beyond the bridge,

and all that part of the locality lying south-west of the river Sherbourne.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Far Gosford-street, is a neat structure of stone obtained in the district; consecrated January 12, 1869. It is of a mixed style of architecture, consisting of nave, chancel, aisles, porch, and low turret, in which there is one bell. The cost of the erection was about £4,500. The whole of the sittings are free and unappropriated. The register dates from the year 1869. The font is a neat structure. The living is a vicarage, value £200, in the patronage of the Bishop of Worcester, and incumbency of the Rev. Frederick Wilson Kittermaster, M.A., of Pembroke College, Oxford. The vicarage is a large and handsome residence in Paradise-street, London-road, erected in 1873.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, Stoney Stanton-road, is a neat structure of red sandstone, in the Gothic style, consisting of nave, chancel, aisles, porch, and turret, in which is one bell. It was consecrated January 12, 1869, and cost about £4,500. The roof is open timbered, and supported by neat pillars and arches. The capitals of the pillars of the clerestory arches are beautifully carved. The font is a neat structure. The east window is filled with stained glass, and is the gift of Mrs. Darlington, of Meriden Hall. There are 750 seats, which are all free, but assignable by the churchwardens. The register dates from 1869. The living is a perpetual curacy, value £200, in the patronage of the Bishop of Worcester, and incumbency of the Rev. William Martin, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge.

The Churches of All Saints and St. Mark were erected by subscription. The Rev. F. W. Kittermaster, Rev. W. Martin, and J. Darlington, Esq., of Meriden Hall, gave £500 each; Mrs. Oakley (per the Vicar of St. Michael's), £350; Executors of Mrs. Morgan, £300; Lord Leigh, 100 guineas. Eight other gentlemen subscribed £100 each, and a very large number of sums varying from 50 guineas to one pound were given in aid of their erection. £1,472 was received from the Coventry Archdeaconal Church Extension Society, and £200 from the Incorporated Society for Church Building.



MISSION CHAPELS.—ST. MICHAEL'S, White Friars'-lane, is a neat building of brick, formerly belonging to the Baptists now worshipping at St. Michael's Baptist Chapel, from whom it has been purchased by the Vestry of St. Michael's. The interior is neatly fitted up with pews and open seats, a raised platform having been erected on which stand neat desks for the minister. Divine service is conducted in this chapel on Friday and Sunday evenings, the officiating minister generally being the Rev. S. B. Bathe, M.A., curate of St. Michael's. There is also a Mission Room in connection with St. Michael's, in Grey Friars'-lane, in which Divine service is conducted on Tuesday evenings.

HOLY TRINITY MISSION ROOM is in Hales-street, and adjoins the house of Mr. Shorter, surgeon. It is neatly fitted up with open seats, and suitable desks for the minister. Divine service is conducted in this room on Thursday evenings by the vicar or his curate.

The MISSION HALL, Burgess, is used for Temperance meetings on week nights, and as a Nonconformist preaching room on Sundays.

The SURROGATES for granting marriage licences for the Diocese of Worcester and Coventry are the Rev. T. Sheepshanks, M.A., Rev. Canon Baynes, M.A., and Rev. F. W. Beaumont, M.A.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Hill-street. A Roman Catholic Chapel was erected in 1807; but its inadequacy to meet the wants of the increased congregation, and the inroads of decay, rendered its demolition necessary. Accordingly, on the 29th of May, 1843, (the Right Rev. Dr. Ullathorne, O.S.B., Bishop of Birmingham, being the then resident priest), the first stone was laid of the present Gothic structure, which, for durability of materials, excellency of workmanship, and appropriateness of design, supplies conclusive evidence that the Roman Catholics of the present day are by no means behind their forefathers in the art and true conception of church building. The site of the present church is adjoining that of the old chapel. It stands on a commanding eminence, and is visible from most parts of the city. It is known as the church "of the Most Holy Sacrament and of St. Osburg." St.

Osburg was an Abbess who lived in Coventry about the year 670. The building of the church was finished in the year 1845, and was consecrated on the 9th of September of that year by Bishop (afterwards Cardinal) Wiseman, and solemnly opened on the day following. The spire was not completed till about eight or nine years later, the resident priest at the time being the Rev. Father Pratt, O.S.B. The height of the tower and spire is 130 feet. The church consists of nave, clerestory, baptistery, north and south aisles, and two chapels—the Lady Chapel and St. Benedict's Chapel, and has sacristies adjoining. The entire length of the church inside is 115 feet; and its width 50 feet. The interior finishing is highly beautiful, rich in ornament, and abounding in impressive symbols of the Roman Catholic faith. Only quite recently (1873) has St. Benedict's Chapel been completed, having had an exquisitely carved altar erected, from designs by T. Donnelly, Esq., and executed by Messrs. Parnell and Son. Also just outside the screen of this chapel, a very fine stone statue of St. Benedict, from the design of the same architect, and executed by Mr. Boulton, of Cheltenham, was erected in March, 1872. At the west end of the church, the original gallery has been considerably enlarged, and partly in it and partly in another gallery at the end of the north aisle, was built in 1871, at a cost of £280, a new organ, by Halmshaw and Sons, of Camp Hill, Birmingham. It is considered a very sweet-toned and effective instrument, and reflects great credit on the builders. The resident priests, in the Priory attached to the church, are the Revs. H. E. Moore, O.S.B., and A. F. Pereira, O.S.B. For the present the Right Rev. Bishop Collier, O.S.B., and the Very Rev. J. Jenkins, O.S.B., are also inmates of the Priory. Besides St. Osburg's, there is also a Roman Catholic Convent of Sisters of Mercy in Raglan-street, in conjunction with which there is a Middle Class School for Girls on Gosford Green; and not far from this latter-named place, at *Primrose Hill House*, is Miss Richmond's School, formerly of Walsall, a well-known and deservedly patronised school for the education of Roman Catholic young gentlemen from 6 to 12 years of age. At present the average attendance is about 36.

THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH is held in the old Infant



School in Well-street. The interior is neatly fitted up with open seats.

### DISSENTING CHAPELS.

The following are the Dissenting and other places of worship in the town viz. :—

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL, Warwick-lane, is a neat structure, erected in 1836.

VICAR-LANE CHAPEL. Congregationalism took its rise in Coventry about the middle of the 17th century, and established itself at Leather Hall soon after the passing of the Act of Uniformity; near to the site of which a chapel was built in 1701, now used by the Unitarians, and known as the Great Meeting. The form of religion was at first Presbyterian, but in 1724 a secession took place, and a new chapel was erected in Vicar-lane, and opened at the latter end of the same year. It was enlarged in 1822. It is a neat structure, the interior of which was entirely renovated in 1873, at a cost of between £400 and £500, defrayed by subscription and collections. Large day and Sunday schools are attached. In the gallery is an excellent organ, erected in 1858, by Groves of London. Rev. John Whewell, minister.

WEST ORCHARD CHAPEL, erected 1821. It is a neat edifice of brick. In 1873 it was enlarged by the removal of the gallery at the rear of the pulpit, and the seats for the Sunday School scholars have been replaced with suitable seats for adults. These seats are free at the evening service. The chapel will now accommodate about 1,000 persons. A new organ has recently been erected. Rev. E. H. Delf, minister. To this chapel Sunday and day schools are attached. In connection with this chapel there is a school-room at Junction-street, Hillfields, in which Divine service is conducted every Sunday afternoon and evening. The erection of a chapel is contemplated. Rev. W. F. Taylor, minister.

WELL STREET CHAPEL, erected 1827, through the exertions of the Rev. N. Rowton. It is a neat structure of brick, which will accommodate about 550 persons. An enlargement is contemplated. There are Sunday and Day Schools which were enlarged in 1867,

and are expected to be further enlarged shortly. Rev. J. W. Kiddle minister. In the gallery is a good organ.

BAPTISTS.—The Particular Baptists first established themselves in a small chapel in a court in Jordan Well erected by them, from whence they removed to COW-LANE CHAPEL, a neat structure, erected 1793. Rev. William John Henderson, minister.

ST. MICHAEL'S BAPTIST CHAPEL in Hay-lane was founded by a portion of the congregation of the chapel in Cow-lane, who seceded therefrom in 1856. The foundation stone of the new chapel was laid by G. A. Pellatt, Esq., M.P., in October of that year, and the building opened in February, 1858. It is a large and handsome structure of stone, with a spire in the Gothic style, known as the decorated. Mr. A. Murray was the architect. The cost was about £5,000. The interior is neatly fitted up with open seats and galleries. The Rev. W. T. Rosevear was the first minister. He has recently returned to his old congregation, and by their efforts and his own the chapel has been freed from the debt by which it was embarrassed.

THE PARTICULAR REHOBOTH BAPTIST CHAPEL, Lower Ford-street, is a neat structure of brick, opened on Christmas Day, 1857, and erected at a cost of about £800, including the land, which was invested in trust; it will accommodate about 300 persons. The pulpit and open seats are of stained deal. The pulpit was erected from the proceeds of the sale of a gold chain which had been presented to the present minister (Mr. Rd. Garner), by a lady. There is a Sunday school and small library.

GENERAL BAPTISTS appear to have existed in Coventry at an early period. Mr. Adam Taylor, one of the historians of the body, says—"In the very beginning of the civil wars, if not before that period, a General Baptist Society existed at Coventry." Though the members were a poor, despised people, we have an account of their dilligence and zeal left us by one of their number. He says, "Upon the weekly day of public worship I was accustomed, with several others, to rise early in the morning and meet together to pray and confer about the things of God, in order to help each other forward in our Christian race. This we did till church worship began. The same improvement of our time we made in the interval



after dinner till the beginning of the afternoon worship, and at the end thereof we repeated the same service, and continued it till seven or eight o'clock." How long this church continued we are not informed, but we find no mention of it after the year 1762.

A Congregation of this denomination was formed in 1822, and erected a chapel in White Friars-lane, a few years later.

The foundation stone of the GENERAL BAPTIST CHAPLLE Gosford-street, was laid by John S. Wright, Esq., of Birmingham, on the 8th of Sept., 1868, and the building completed in 1869. It is a large and handsome structure of red brick, with Bath stone dressings, erected by the congregation of the Old White Friars' Chapel, at a cost of upwards of £2,100, £100 of which was given by Thomas Crowley, Esq., of Birmingham, the rest also being raised by subscription. It is in the Italian style, from a design by J. D. Webster, Esq., of Sheffield, and in the front is a handsome portico, supported by four neat arches and pillars. The arches of the windows are relieved with white and blue brick. The interior is neatly fitted up with stained deal and varnished open seats and galleries for 700 persons. Adjoining the chapel, Sunday schools have been erected for 450 children. Rev. Henry Cross, minister.

There is a BAPTIST Sunday School at Lord-street, Chapelfields, erected in 1860 by subscription.

UNITARIAN CHAPEL, Smithford-street, is a neat brick building, erected in 1701. This chapel was originally built by the Presbyterians, but the Unitarian form of belief has been adopted since the secession of Independents before alluded to in 1742. Rev. George Heaviside, minister.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, Grove-street, is a neat structure of brick, erected 1836.

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE is a large brick building in Vicar-lane.

PLYMOUTH BRETHREN'S CHAPEL, is a neat structure of brick in Cherry-street.

There are SUNDAY SCHOOLS connected with all the churches and chapels. The former held in the National Schools.

THE JEWS SYNAGOGUE, Barras-lane, is a handsome structure of red brick, in front of which is a neat portico, supported by

stone arches and pillars. It was opened by the Rev. Dr. Adler, Chief Rabbi, in October, 1871, and the cost of erection was £1,600, which was defrayed by subscription. The interior is neatly fitted up with open seats, and contains accommodation for 100 persons. At the east end is a stained glass window, on which are inscribed the Ten Commandments in the Hebrew language; it is the gift of a gentleman. The stonework in front of the ark is beautifully carved. Adjoining the synagogue is a school, which is as yet unoccupied. The Rev. S. Cohen is the minister, for whom there is a residence adjoining.

### COVENTRY CEMETERY.

This is situated half a mile S.E from the town, on the London road, and contains about 18 acres of land, the laying out of which was executed from a plan laid down by that well-known horticulturist, Mr. (afterwards Sir Joseph) Paxton, late head gardener to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and designer of the Crystal Palace. It is considered to be one of the finest and most picturesque cemeteries in the kingdom, being skirted with tall elms, which form a fine natural ornament to its borders; the grounds are tastefully laid out with walks and shrubs of various kinds. It is entered at the north end, and divided by a capacious serpentine walk; the south-west side is appropriated to members of the Church or England, and the north-east to the Dissenters; the portions are nearly equal. The church is a neat structure of stone in the Norman style of architecture. The east window contains three lights, which are enriched with stained glass, and at the west end is a beautiful wheel window of stained glass. The Dissenters' Chapel is also a neat structure of stone in the Grecian style. The lodge, which is a neat stone edifice, and the entrance, are in the Italian style. Near the entrance a monument was erected in 1868 to the memory of Sir Joseph Paxton; it is a beautiful and lofty structure in the Florid Gothic style, erected from a competition design by Mr. Joseph Goddard, at a cost of about £500, defrayed by subscription. On the monument is the following simple inscription:—"Sir Joseph Paxton, died June 13th, 1865." The sculpture work was executed by Mr. Samuel Barfield of Leicester. A short distance from the church



stands a beautiful monument, in the form of a cross, erected to the memory of Edward Phillips, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P., J.P., of this city, who died Nov. 9th, 1868, and was interred in Corley Churchyard. The cost of the monument was defrayed by numerous friends of the deceased, to whom he was known as a "skilful physician, a kind-hearted man, and constant benefactor to the poor." The remains of the late Dr. Waters were interred in this cemetery, but as yet no monument has been erected. We believe the erection of one is in contemplation by the public. The cost of the cemetery and buildings erected thereon was £12,000. It is the property of the Corporation, by whom it was opened, December 19th, 1847. There is no appointed chaplain, duty being taken by the clergy of the city according to annual arrangement as to the number of deaths occurring in each parish yearly. Mr. Walter Dawson is the superintendent, and resides at the lodge, who is also a landscape gardener and nurseryman.

### PASSING BELLS.

The mode of announcing the death of a person in Coventry by "striking out," as it is here termed, appears to me so peculiar, and so contrary to what I should suppose was the mediæval practice of tolling a passing bell, as well as opposed to the solemnity of the occasion which calls forth such public notice, that I venture to supply you with an account of the system adopted at the Church of St. Michael in this city. Probably some of your readers experienced in the history and use of bells can say whether the custom is common elsewhere, and whether it be correct or not. We have a peal of ten bells, and the plan adopted here for a male is as follows:—The tenor bell is first struck three times in quick succession; after a pause it is again sounded in like manner; another pause, and three more blows are given—in all nine strokes, or "three times three." For a female this preliminary intimation consists of two strokes at a time, or "three times two" in the whole. The first or treble bell is then struck sixty times, then the second a like number, until the tenor is reached, which is made to strike one

hundred times. The first and second bells are then struck alternately sixty times each, then the second and third a similar number, third and fourth, fourth and fifth, and so on to the ninth and tenth, which are struck one hundred or one hundred and twenty times ; the ninth is then discontinued, and the tenor bell then strikes nine times alone in case of a male, and six times for a female. The time occupied by this “striking out” is thirty-five or forty minutes. At the time of a funeral the tenor bell is muffled and then raised, tolling at half-minute time as long as the friends of the deceased think proper to pay for it. A funeral peal is thus rung :—The bells are all muffled on both sides of the clappers, then raised and rung at short intervals for an hour ; during these intervals the tenor is made to strike twice, or as the ringers term it, “full pull.” After thus ringing, one of the buffs is taken off each bell, and the peal is rung half open, the alternate series remaining muffled. Changes are also at this stage introduced, and the peal concludes with open ringing varied with changes. The bells are then brought down and chimed for a few minutes ; the tenor is then struck the same number of times as in striking out. The system of tolling the muffled bell during the funeral, and ringing the peal afterwards, I can fully appreciate—there is something beautifully solemn in both ; but the practice of “striking out” I should be glad to see discussed in your columns if it has not already been noticed. A curious entry appears in the city leet-book in 1496, regulating the charges to be paid for ringing death peals, which I take to mean funeral peals, because it will be remembered that at that period the passing bell was tolled for a person dying, to bespeak the prayers of the hearers on behalf of the departing soul :—

“Hit is ordeyned at y’is p’sent lete, that all man’ p’sones that hereaftur woll have the belles to ring aft’r ye decesse of eny frends they shall pay for a pell ryngyng w’t all ye belles ijs, xxd y’rof to ye chircheward, & iiijd to ye clerks.—And yf he woll have but iiij belles, xvjd., xijd to ye chirch & iiijd to ye clerks. And as for iij belles, ev’r p’sone y’t woll have theym, to paye but iiijd to ye clerks.”

—WM. GEO. FRETTON (Coventry), in *Notes and Queries*.



## A GREAT WANT TO BE SUPPLIED.

Mr. W. G. Fretton, a local antiquarian, in his paper, read at St. Mary's Hall, on July 22nd, 1873, before referred to, says, "One great want remains to be supplied, and one that such meetings as these may encourage the making of an effort to meet—an archæological society and museum. With a city so rich in antiquarian treasure and historical association, the entire absence of any organization for the systematic preservation of what we have left to us, and for the promotion of a study of our local antiquities, is a reproach which I trust may yet be removed from us, and that some step may be taken at an early opportunity to form the nucleus of a city museum. Had this been done years ago, we should have been in possession of an accumulation of interesting objects connected with our local history, now for ever lost to us; and we are daily losing the opportunity of acquiring others. As in other matters, 'it is never too late to mend;' and if we begin with ever so little, by all means *let us begin.*" We fully agree with Mr. Fretton that a city so rich in antiquity and historical research should possess a good museum, and we trust that his appeal will not have been made in vain, but that the time is not far distant when this ancient city shall possess a museum second to none out of London.

## SCHOOLS.

THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—This was founded in the reign of Henry VIII., by John Hales, Esq., who endowed it with lands, at that time of the value of two hundred marks, but which now produce an annual income of about £900, of which the head master receives two-thirds, and the second master the remainder. It is under the management of the Corporation, by whom the masters are appointed. There is a fellowship at Catherine Hall, Cambridge, founded by Mr. Frankland, for persons educated at Coventry school. Electors, the Master and Fellows of Catherine Hall; "careful regard being had to the recommendation" of the Trustees of the Free Grammar School of this city.

There are two fellowships at St. John's College, Oxford, founded by Sir Thomas White, for scholars from the city of Coventry;

they are in the gift of the Trustees of the Free School, Coventry.

Also, Thomas Lane, of Coventry, in 1656, by will bequeathed certain property "for fitting poor scholars of Coventry," for the University, and towards their maintenance there. There are now under this bequest six exhibitions, tenable for seven years; value, £5 per annum for three years, and £56 per annum for the remaining four. The schoolroom is the remaining part of a church which anciently belonged to the Hospital of St. John, built in the reign of Henry II., the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £83 3s. 8d. It is a spacious room, lighted with windows in the decorated style, with rich tracery, and fitted up with ancient carved seats, removed from the choir of the church belonging to the monastery of the White Friars. The west end, taken down to widen the street, has been rebuilt in an appropriate style, and ornamented with two handsome turrets. Sir William Dugdale, the celebrated antiquary, Archbishop Secker, George, thirteenth Lord Berkley, and Dean Ralph Bathurst, were educated at this school. Rev. John Grover, M.A., *head master*; Rev. John J. Soden, M.A., *second master*; Mr. M. E. Jenkins, *third master*.

The founder seems to have intended to found a similar college to that at Eton or Westminster, but his original design seems to have been relinquished. The erection of new schools and master's house, on a better site, is contemplated; but we sincerely hope that the old and interesting building will be preserved as a tribute of respect to the memory of John Hales, and from the recollections of the scholars educated here.

THE BABLAKE SCHOOL.—This occupies the sides of the quadrangle of the Bablake Hospital, and was founded in 1560, by Mr. Thomas Wheatley, ironmonger, and mayor of the city, in consequence of an accidental acquisition of wealth, by the delivery of barrels of cochineal and ingots of silver in mistake for steel gads, which he sent his agent to purchase in Spain. The original endowment, increased by subsequent benefactions, produces upwards of £1,000 per annum, and furnishes the means for a good plain education to 70 boys, children of the working classes of Coventry, who are admitted when between eleven and twelve years of age, and continue two years, or



till the usual period of apprenticeship. Thirty-five are annually admitted. They each wear a blue tunic, and are supplied with the principal articles of clothing immediately on admission. For the first year they reside at home, but at the end of that year are taken into the house and wholly provided for, every attention being paid to secure them personal domestic comfort and salutary moral training. On their leaving school a premium of £4 is given to bind them apprentice for seven years, to such trades as may be chosen for them by their parents or guardians. This school, which was formerly under the control of the Corporation, is now under the management of the General Charity Trustees of Coventry. Mr, Francis William Humberstone, A.K.C., *head master*; Mr. William Gilbert Pierce, jun., *second master*; Mrs. Ianson, *matron*.

THE BLUE COAT GIRLS' CHARITY SCHOOL.—This was established about the commencement of the last century, stands on the site and is connected with the remains of the west end of the cathedral, in Priory-row. It was supported by voluntary contributions, but its funds have been increased by gifts and bequests, at various times, to the amount of upwards of £1,500. The charity is managed by eight trustees, consisting of the vicar and vestrymen of Trinity parish, and is for thirty girls, children of the labouring classes, who are instructed in the usual branches of a sound plain English education, and needlework, and clothed out of the funds of this charity. They wear the uniform of Queen Anne. They are admitted at ten years of age, and remain from three to five years. The eight oldest girls are taken into the house the last year, and instructed by the matron in such duties as may fit them for becoming useful domestic servants. The old building, having shown signs of decay, was taken down, and the present appropriate and picturesque edifice erected on its site, in 1857. Miss Taylor, *mistress*; Mrs. Barnes, *matron*.

BAYLEY'S CHARITY SCHOOL.—This was founded by the will of Mrs. Katherine Bayley, in 1723, by which she leaves £600; the first rules and regulations were drawn up, and the school established in 1733. This charity affords a good plain education for fifty-four boys, who are admitted at eleven years of age, and remain till they are fourteen, when they are apprenticed with a premium of £2.

They receive a suit of clothes annually whilst at school, and attend regularly at St. Michael's Church, of which parish the founder was an inhabitant. This charity has been augmented by legacies and donations; its income from real and funded property now amounts to nearly £160 per annum, besides the proceeds of a charity sermon annually at St. Michael's Church, and rental derived from property belonging to the trustees. In 1845, a new and substantial school was erected down a yard in Little Park-street, on land belonging to the estate. The expenditure is nearly £300 per year. Mr. William George Fretton is the *master*.

BAKER, BILLING, AND CROW'S CHARITY SCHOOL, Cow-lane.—This was founded in 1690, by Mr. Samuel Baker, of London; its funds have been augmented by various benefactors, and now realize about £500 per annum. The property is vested in seven trustees, and the boys have each a suit of clothes annually; when bound apprentice a premium of £3 is given with each. The whole attend divine service on Sundays at the Unitarian Chapel. The master takes 50 boys from Coventry or the immediate neighbourhood. Mr. Charles John Heap, *master*.

FAIRFAX'S CHARITY SCHOOL, Spon-street, originated in a donation of £100, made by Mr. Samuel Fairfax, in the year 1751; subsequent benefactions have raised its income to about £150 per year, besides the receipt of a charity sermon at St. Michael's Church of about £100. From these resources forty poor boys are clothed and educated three years. The affairs of this school are managed by eight trustees resident in St. John's parish. Mr. Thomas Bassett, *master*.

SOUTHERN AND CRANER'S CHARITY SCHOOL, Vicar-lane.—This was established in 1729 and 1731, by the wills of Bridget Southern and Francis Craner, both members of the Society of Friends, for the "education or bringing up of poor children called 'Quakers,' or others, being inhabitants of Coventry." The property is vested in trustees, and yields about £90 per annum, by which means thirty poor girls are clothed and educated for three years. Sarah and Isabel Burbidge, *teachers*.

THE FREEMEN'S ORPHAN SCHOOL, Leicester-street.—This school comprises a large and handsome building of brick, established in 1865, at a cost of £3,000, defrayed out of the funds of Sir Thomas



White's charity. There are thirty-one girls educated free, twenty of whom are instructed in the usual branches of education, trained for domestic service, and clothed; the remaining eleven being only instructed and clothed. They are admitted into the house at the end of their first year's tuition, and after remaining therein two years, they are sent to service. This is a most useful institution, and is in a prosperous condition. Miss M. A. Herbert, *mistress*, and Miss A. Holland, *matron*.

### WARWICKSHIRE REFORMATORY INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS, LITTLE PARK STREET.

This institution was removed from Tile Hill to the large and commodious building, previously occupied as the Warwickshire Hospital, in Much Park-street, in 1869. It is a most useful institution, the income of which is derived partly from voluntary contributions, Government grants, profits of work performed, and from payments made by some of the children's parents. There is accommodation for about forty girls in the present building. We learn from the report for the year 1872 that at the beginning of the year there were 36 girls on the register, of whom 32 were in the school, and four out upon licence. During the year seven girls were admitted. The number of girls on the register at the close of the year 1872 was 39, of whom 30 were in the school, and nine out on licence. Of 20 girls, the number discharged during the years 1869-70 and 71, 16 are reported to be doing well, the characters of two are doubtful, and two unknown. The girls are educated and instructed for service. The receipts for the year ending 31st December, 1872, amounted to £984 19s. 2d., and the total payments £774 4s. 2d. On the 3rd October, 1872, the school was inspected by the Rev. Sidney Turner, Her Majesty's Inspector of Reformatories, who expressed himself well satisfied with the condition of the school. *President*, Right Hon. the Lord Leigh; *Treasurers*, Messrs. Greenway, Smith, and Greenways, bankers, Leamington; *Matron*, Miss Phillips; *School Mistress*, Miss Whimbey; *Secretary*, Mr. George C. Lake, 23, Upper Parade, Leamington; *Collector*, Mr. F. Bird, Park-place, Leamington. In connection with this Reformatory there is a

similar institution for boys at Weston-under-Weatherley, at which place it will be found noticed.

### THE SCHOOL OF ART, FORD-STREET,

Was first established, and held in a building at St. John's Bridges (now Burgess) in 1843, entirely from a strong sense entertained by many of the principal inhabitants that to a city like this, whose interests depend so much on the ribbon and silk manufacture and other works of art, such an institution was of paramount necessity, as a means of cultivating the taste of the youthful part of our artizan population, and instructing them in the art of design, in the hope that in due time its advantage would be felt in that intense rivalry which has so long prevailed between the British and the French manufacturer. The present building in Ford-street was erected in 1863. It is a large and handsome structure of brick in the Gothic style, from designs by Mr. James Murray. On the front of the building are carved figures representing the engineer, architect, chemist, sculptor, and painter. The school is well fitted up, and the rooms are well lighted, the light in many cases being received from glass roofs as well as windows. There are class-rooms for male and female pupils, painting, modelling, and drawing rooms; master's studio, library, cloak, keepers, and committee rooms. There is also a large room, which we understand is intended for a museum, but it is at present used for the exhibition of prizes. It is well lighted by a glass roof and windows. In one of the ladies' rooms is a life-sized portrait of the late Edward Ellice, Esq., late M.P. for Coventry, which, after having been presented to him by his constituents, he allowed to occupy its present position. The school is aided by grants from Government, and its rules and general management are subject to the supervision of and inspection of the Government School at Somerset House. John Anderson, *head master*; Edwin Brown, *assistant master*.

### NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

The old NATIONAL CENTRAL SCHOOL, Union-street, was erected in 1826, in connection with the Archdeaconry of Coventry, as a train-



ing school for teachers, as well as providing education for the children of the poorer classes in this city. It was entirely supported by the clergy of the Church of England. On the establishment of the training school for the united Diocesan Boards at Saltley, and the opening of new schools in connection with St. Michael's, Trinity, and St. John's Churches, it was closed for some years as a school, but has been recently re-opened as a district school attached to St. Michael's. Miss Ellen Arthur, *mistress*.

ST. MICHAEL'S NATIONAL SCHOOLS, Much Park-street, occupy a large and handsome building of stone, erected in 1855, at a cost of over £4,000, defrayed by subscription and grants. They will accommodate 700 boys, girls, and infants. The average attendance is as follows:—Boys, 150; girls, 130; infants, 140. Mr. T. and Mrs. A. Rickard, and Miss A. Long, *teachers*.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL is a large and handsome structure of stone, with a spire, in Hales-street, erected in 1854, at a cost of above £3,000, defrayed by subscription, aided by grants. It is for boys, girls, and infants, and will accommodate about 700 pupils. Average attendance:—Boys, 272; girls, 140; infants, 220. Mr. John S. Steane, Miss S. E. Lyndon, and Miss L. Pratt, *teachers*.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL, Holyhead-road, for boys, girls, and infants, is a neat brick building, erected in 1839, the expenses being defrayed by subscription. There is accommodation for about 200 pupils. Mr. Miller, *master*; Miss Eliza Bye, *mistress*.

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL, Butts, is a neat brick building, erected a few years ago, will accommodate about 200 pupils. Miss Emma Hollingdale, *mistress*.

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, Yardley-street, is a neat brick building, with stone dressings, erected 1844 by voluntary subscription, aided by a grant from the National Society. It has recently been enlarged, and is for boys, girls, and infants. Mr. Joseph Innis Bates, Miss J. C. Barnes, and Miss M. A. Chattel, are the teachers.

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL, Stoney Stanton-road, comprises a neat building of brick, erected in 1871-2, at a cost (including fittings) of £600, entirely defrayed by voluntary contributions, the Government grant being declined. The site was given by the Right Hon. Lord Boston. It is a mixed school, and will accommodate about 140

children. Average attendance about 120. Mr. R. C. Maidwell, *master*.

The foregoing Church schools are all under Government inspection.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (St. Osburg's), Hill-street, comprise a neat brick building. William Jennings, *master*.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL, King-street.—This was founded in 1811, on the system and under the direction of the celebrated Joseph Lancaster. The present school is a neat brick building, erected 1840. and will accommodate 200 children. Mr. Daniel Simms, *master*.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL, Radford, is a neat brick building, with accommodation for fifty scholars. Miss Parker, *mistress*. On Sundays it is used as a preaching room, in connection with West Orchard Chapel.

#### MISCELLANEOUS SCHOOLS.

THOMAS STREET INFANT AND JUVENILE SCHOOL, Butts, was erected by the late Joseph Cash, Esq., in 1835, and is now supported by Mrs. Sarah Cash. Joseph Squires, *master*.

INDEPENDENT INFANT SCHOOL, Chapel-street, Well-street, has an attendance of about 180 children. Miss Sarah Denser, *teacher*.

WEST ORCHARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL. Miss Louisa Beard, *teacher*.

THE COVENTRY RAGGED SCHOOL is a very useful institution, which has for its object the gathering together of the ragged and destitute poor, especially the young, to teach them the elements of secular knowledge and Christian truth. There are three schools, one in St. Nicholas-street another in Spon-street, and a third used as a boys' Sunday school, at the armoury in new buildings.

SCHOOL BOARD SCHOOLS.—The *Spon-street School* is a large and handsome building of red brick, and partakes of the Elizabethian style, with a short spire, in which there is a bell, erected in 1873, at a cost (including fittings) of about £4,000. It consists of three departments, with class rooms, the infants being in the centre. The boys' department is 71 ft. 9 in. long by 20 ft. wide, and 18 ft. high. The class room attached is 18 ft. by 18 ft.; and the teachers' room 12 ft. by 8 ft. The infant department is 76 ft. long by 22 ft.



wide, and 20 ft. high; class room 18 ft. by 16 ft., and teachers' room 12 ft. by 8 ft. The girls' school is 48 ft. long, 20 wide and 18 ft. high; class room 18 ft. by 16 ft. 6 in.; teachers' room 12 ft. by 8 ft. The schools will accommodate about 530 scholars, viz., 180 boys, 130 girls, and 220 infants. Mr. William Spencer, *master*; Miss Shambrook, *mistress*; Miss Stanley, *infant teacher*.

THE SOUTH-STREET SCHOOL is a similar structure of red brick, with three turrets, in one of which is a bell. It was erected in 1873, at a cost of about £3,000, and will accommodate about 500 scholars. The master is not yet appointed.

INDUSTRIAL HOME, Leicester-street, established 1846, for 26 destitute females, who are educated and trained as servants. It is supported by voluntary contributions and their own industry. Miss M. A. Herbert, *teacher*; Mrs. Holland, *matron*.

#### MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY.—In the year 1831 a prominent topic of discussion amongst the wealthier classes of Coventry was that of establishing a dispensary, in order to meet the wants of the poor in time of sickness; and as considerable difference of opinion prevailed as to the principle upon which it was desirable such institutions should be founded, the result was the formation of two, respectively denominated “The Self-supporting” and “The General Dispensary.” As these descriptions imply, the first relied for its maintenance on the small weekly contributions of the working classes who might avail themselves of its advantages, aided by the subscriptions and donations of honorary members. The General Dispensary, on the other hand, was based on the principle of benevolence or charity alone for the support of its funds. Both succeeded well, and a few years ago the Self-supporting, or, as it is now called, “The Provident Dispensary,” erected for itself premises in Bailey-lane, which were abandoned in 1838 for the present building at the east of St. Michael's Church. It is supposed to be one of the earliest institutions on the provident system established in the kingdom, and owes its origin mainly to the exertions of the late Dr. Smith, of Southam. The buildings, being found inadequate, have been considerably enlarged, and opened in 1873, at a cost of upwards of

£1,000. It now comprises a neat structure of brick, which is the freehold of the institution. The number of persons who have received medical aid since its establishment in July, 1831, is 92,362. From the report for the year ending March 26, 1873, it appears that 5,221 patients were attended, of which number 4,070 were cured, 770 were relieved, 82 died, and 299 were still under treatment. The amount paid by free members during the last year was £1,251. This institution has recently had cause to lament the untimely death of one of its surgeons, Dr. Waters, who was accidentally thrown from his horse, at Sowe, on July 14, 1873, after visiting a patient there, and died from the effects of the fall the day after. He was a skilful physician, and a kind-hearted friend to the poor. *Patron*, Bishop of Worcester; *Treasurers*, Coventry Union Banking Company; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. Luke Dresser; *Hon. Physician*, Dr. Nankivell; *Hon. Surgeon*, E. Bicknell; *Surgeons*, Dr. M'Veagh, Dr. Plowman, and Dr. Fenton; *Collector*, Mr. A. Smith; *Dispensers*, Messrs. John Brown and F. Backhouse

#### COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL.

This institution, which arose from the General Dispensary was founded on the principle of gratuitous assistance to the poor, having, as might be expected, in the midst of a dense manufacturing population, found the claims upon its benevolence to increase, turned its attention to a wider sphere of action for augmenting its resources, and thereby extending its usefulness, and, by the perseverance of its original promoters, at length succeeded far beyond the most sanguine expectations that could have been cherished. The plan of founding an hospital, the advantages of which should be open to the county at large, was as warmly encouraged as the want of such an establishment in this neighbourhood in particular was universally admitted; and, after a year or two of generous exertion, and an effectual attempt to unite the two dispensaries for the purpose, this worthy object was carried into effect. A building of considerable extent, with an enclosed garden, the whole occupying 1,600 square yards of land, in Little Park-street, close to Coventry Park, was purchased, and fitted up for the purpose. But the committee, after several years successful exertions, finding that even



this extensive establishment was too inadequate to meet all the requirements of the institution, directed their attention to a wider sphere of labour, and erected the present large and commodious building on the Stoney Stanton road. For some years past the value of this important institution has been realized by thousands of persons in this city and in that part of the county contiguous hereto, whom misfortune, poverty, or accident had placed in need of the assistance which it provides.

The first stone of the NEW HOSPITAL, which is pleasantly situated at the junction of Bird-street and Stoney Stanton-road, was laid in October, 1864, by the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, and the building opened in November, 1867. It is a large and handsome structure of red brick, with stone dressings, adapted from the Gothic and Italian styles of architecture, and consisting of two stories, each 14 feet high; at each end are square towers, which rise to a height of about 50 feet; there are also four minor ones. The cost of the entire structure was about £5,000, which was defrayed out of donations and legacies bequeathed for the benefit of the institution. Through a fine and elaborately moulded archway we enter the hall, a spacious apartment, from which diverge the consulting, surgeon's, matron's, and committee apartments. The other portions of the building are occupied by a large patients' waiting room, main, convalescent, and special case wards, students' rooms, medical library, museum, dissecting-room, sculleries, bath rooms, out-offices, and every other requisite and convenience for the efficient carrying out of the objects of the institution. There are 60 beds. During the past year (1873) a special effort has been made by Mrs. Gulson to establish in connection with this institution a children's ward, which has been crowned with that success which the intentions of this kind lady deserved. During the year ending October 31, 1872, the number of patients were as follows:—In-patients, 180; out-patients, with tickets, 1,380; out, without tickets, 780, making a total of 2,340. Out of the 180 in-door patients 109 were cured, 34 relieved, 6 unrelieved, 4 discharged at their own request, 10 died, and 17 in the house. The annual expenditure is about £2,000, which is provided for entirely by sub-

scriptions and donations in this city and the adjacent parts of the county. Collections are made in nearly every church and chapel in the city for the benefit of its funds once every year. *President*, the Right Hon. the Earl of Craven. *Vice-Presidents*, the most Noble the Marquis of Hertford, the Right Hon. the Earl of Denbigh, the Right Hon. the Lord Leigh, C. N. Newdegate, Esq., M.P. H. W. Eaton, Esq., M.P., W. S. Dugdale, Esq., and E. Dewes, Esq., M.D. *Trustees*, T. S. Morris, Esq., and A. B. Herbert, Esq. *Hon Consulting Medical Officer*, E. Dewes, Esq., M.D. *Medical Officers*, Dr. Sykes, Dr. Read, Dr. Wimberley, and Dr. Milner Moore. *Resident Surgeon*, Dr. Robert B. Wybrants. *Matron*, Mrs. Kavanagh. *Secretary*, Arthur Seymour, Esq. *Treasurers*, the Coventry and Warwickshire Banking Company. *Collector*, Mr. T. Iliffe, *Drapers' Hall*, to whom applications should be made for extra tickets.

THE LYING-IN CHARITY, Albion-street, is liberally supported. Mrs. P. Shand, *matron*.

### THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library belonging to the Coventry Library Society, established in 1791, was handed over to the present Free Library, which was opened in 1868, and was, up to October, 1873, held in a building in Hertford-street. The new *Free Library* is a large and handsome structure of red brick, with Bath stone dressings, in the composite Gothic style, from a design by Mr. E. Burgess, erected at a cost of upwards of £5,000, defrayed by John Gulson, Esq., aided by a donation of £1,000, from Samuel Carter, Esq. Mr. Gulson also gave the site. We learn from a circular issued from the library that "It is estimated that £1,241 will be required for the fittings, furniture, and interior decorations of the library, and the committee propose to raise a further sum of £1,000, for the purchase of a good collection of books, being convinced that in no better way could the inhabitants show their appreciation of this noble gift to the city than by establishing a good Reference Library, which shall be, in every way, worthy of the building." We trust that this appeal will not be made in vain, as we are convinced that it is highly important that a city so rich in antiquity, and



so celebrated for its manufactures and works of art, should possess a good reference library. The building was opened on October 8th, 1873. The entrance is through a very neat arch of stone, on each side of which are granite columns. The building covers an area of about 1,650 feet of land, and comprises, on the ground floor, a commodious reading room, the roof of which is open timbered, 62 feet by 32, a reference library, and a circulating library, with a waiting room attached. On the first floor are committee and other rooms. At the west end of the reading room is a beautiful wheel window of stained glass. The library contains about 13,000 volumes of carefully selected works, in every branch of literature, and the reading room is well supplied with the London and provincial papers and periodicals. Since the opening of the library over 5,500 tickets have been issued, and upwards of 236,900 volumes have been issued during that period. The library is open on week days from 9 a.m. till 9.30 p.m.; for the issue of books from 11 to 12 a.m., from 1 to 5 p.m., and 7 to 9.5 p.m.: it closes on Wednesdays at 12. W. H. Hill, Esq., is *chairman* of the committee; John Rotherham, jun., Esq., *treasurer*; Mr. Edward Brown, *librarian*.

COMMITTEE.—The Mayor, H. Soden, Esq.; Aldermen Banks, Berry, Gulson, Hill, and Phillips; Councillors Bill, Cash, and Franklin; Dr. Dewes; Messrs. W. Odell, jun., H. Band, W. G. Fretton, J. Gutteridge, and J. Lee.

The following account of the history of the site is extracted from an article in *Long Ago*, to which it was contributed by Mr. Fretton:—

On the south side of Trinity Church, in the city of Coventry, is a spot, the present condition of which gives no indication whatever of the buildings which formerly occupied it, and which has probably undergone as singular changes as any other site in this old city. The earliest allusion to it, of which I have met with any notice, is in a deed bearing date 4th December, 1499 (15th Henry VII.) in which Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, conveyed to Thomas Bowde, then vicar of this church, “a parcell of ground in Coventrye wt the housyng thereuppon sette,” and which is still further particularised by another deed, dated the 8th of the same month, as being “on the south side the seid church, with an entre from the

hye stret, their cald the Spyccer Stok \* \* betwixt the wall of the p'cession way of the seid church and the ground of John Norwood," &c. This deed has the autograph and great seal of the marquis, and is, I believe, still preserved in Trinity Church vestry. Thomas Bowde founded on this spot a hall or residence for the priests connected with Trinity Church, and gave it for the use of the church for ever, referring thereto in his will, dated 22nd of March, 1507, as "Domum de Nomine Jhesu." He also directed that at his interment in Trinity Church, every priest having chambers in Jesus Hall shall receive 12d., and every other priest attending 4d.; the clerk 2d.; and the ringers 20d.: besides 1d. each to the poor on that day. He also wills that the vicar, or his substitute, shall every Sunday pray for the soul of Master Thomas Bowde, for which he shall immediately receive from the churchwardens 12d. Other payments are also authorised to be made on the day of his obit, or anniversary. He died in 1508.

In 1510, John Boteler granted to the commoners of Jesus Hall for their fuel, all the wood growing and to grow in a certain grove and field at Exhall. These commoners also kept an obit for Joane Hudson, for which they received out of the revenues of Scots Close, Spon-end, a yearly sum of 10s.

The original structure appears to have been of considerable extent, and joined the south transept of Trinity Church. This circumstance necessitated a passage beneath the transept, the floor of which was raised to admit of it, and this transept evidently formed one of the chantry chapels connected with the church, most probably the Jesus Church.

Numerous references are made in the church books to this vault or arched passage beneath the transept. The right of way through it appears to have been occasionally a matter of litigation. "Keeping clean the vault" is a regular item in the sexton's charge, repairing the "turnabout" also occurs; in 1724 an order for a lamp for the vault was made. In 1819 the footpath was newly flagged; but in 1834 the passage was finally closed. During the restorations in 1855, the chapel floor was removed, and the area thrown into the church. Traces of the western door of the vault still exist.



After the Reformation, so extensive a house was considered unnecessarily large for the vicar's exclusive use, and we find the vestry allowing the use of the great hall for the use of some of the city guilds for their meetings, as for example :—

“ 1565. R'ce of the Corvysers for Jesus Hall, ijs. viij*d*. ; other payments also occur of a like nature.”

In 1622 it was leased to Humphrey Burton for sixty-one years, at a rental of 26*s*. 8*d*., who, in 1658, purchased it for £52, and a yearly ground-rent of 20*s*., which was subsequently reduced to 5*s*., on payment of £15. Mr. Simon Burton, town clerk, afterwards came into possession, and he, by his will in 1693, bequeaths it to the then vicar of Trinity and his successors for ever, subject to the annual payment of 5*s*.

Humphrey Wanley, the celebrated antiquary, son of Nathaniel Wanley, a former vicar of Trinity, in describing this house in 1693, says :—

“ The house is, as I suppose, 300 years old, by the work of it, and as folks say, was called Jesus Hall. One may see the word Jesus thus cut in wood yet over the gate of it in two places, *J. H. S.* As for the hall, I am apt to think that the present hall and dining-room, and the chamber above it, have been but one room, as is apparent by the work of it, and I believe that the old Vicaridge House, next adjoining to it, being before united, together made up one house, because one may easily perceive that they were so by the work, and what alterations have been made in some of the windows of the old Vicaridge House. I remember to have seen a branch painted with the letter *h* in the middle of it. I always thought that this was some rebus or device the person had chose to express his name by, who caused those windows to be made, but could not think of any name that it might allude to ; and in one place I could read

*Orate pro hi's,*

and thus other painted glass put in since ; and presently—

*hujus vicarii fundat ;*

\*

But in the windows of my uncle's part of this ancient house, I well

---

\* Simon Burton.

remember that, about three years ago (1690), I saw the same branches and the *ð* up and down in them ; in one place—

*Orate pro a'ia Thome Bowde, hujus bicarii fundatoris,*

which proved my conjecture to be true, he using a bough and a *ð* to express his name by."

In 1742, it was determined to take down the old Vicarage House and Jesus Hall, a faculty having been obtained the previous year for so doing ; and it appears from the entries in the church books in 1744, that the payments for building the new parsonage house amounted to £572 1s. 4d., exclusive of the faculty and sundry other expenses, amounting to £30 7s. 7d. The sum of £100 16s. 11d. being received for the old materials. A view of this new vicarage appears in a print of the date of 1810, by Mr. James Walker, of the 13th Light Dragoons, then stationed in Coventry. These prints are scarce and but little known, and exhibit a panoramic view of the two churches and neighbouring houses.

In 1824 the necessity for enlarging the adjoining city and county gaol became evident, and a special jury, summoned for the purpose, decided on the purchase of the Vicarage House, garden, and appurtenances at the price of £842, to be paid out of the rates. The whole of the premises were taken down in April, 1826, and the cells, yards, and other portions extended to the boundary of the old vicarage property near Trinity Church, leaving a narrow pathway between the high wall of the gaol and the churchyard. In 1830 the enlarged building became the gaol and house of correction, for the city and county of Coventry. On the 9th of August, 1848, the last execution carried into effect took place before its walls, and in 1854, on the right of holding an assize in Coventry being withdrawn, under the effect of the new Boundary Act of 1842, which annulled the old jurisdiction of the county of the city of Coventry, and incorporated it with the county of Warwick, the gaol was for the most part rendered useless, except as a place of detention and entirely so as a house of correction.

A few years ago the greater part of the old gaol and its site was purchased by John Gulson, Esq., an ex-mayor and one of the city magistrates. He has liberally given the site, and supplemented the



gift by undertaking the main cost of the building (assisted by the donation of £1,000 from S. Carter, Esq.), of a new Free Library.

### COVENTRY INSTITUTE.

The *Mechanics' Institution*, established 1828, and the *Religious and Useful Knowledge Society*, established 1835, the last chiefly through the exertions of Dr. Hook, a late vicar of Trinity Church, were amalgamated in 1855, under the name of the *Coventry Institute*, which occupies a large and convenient brick building, with cemented front, in Hertford-street. The old large and commodious lecture room has been converted into a reading room, in which the library is also held, which contains upwards of 3,000 volumes of carefully selected works; the reading room is well supplied with the London and provincial papers and periodicals. Other portions of the building have been appropriated to the use of Science classes, in connexion with the Science and Art Department, South Kensington; and it is gratifying to know that out of 95 examination papers, sent in in 1872, 55 obtained Government certificates. A Social Club is connected with the institute. *President*: Right Hon. Lord Leigh. *Hon. Secretaries*: Messrs. T. Burbidge and H. Heginbottom. *Treasurers*: Coventry and Warwickshire Banking Co. *Librarian*: Mr. T. Caldicott.

There is a SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY at the Corn Exchange Buildings, Hertford-street; Mr. William Wood Curtis, proprietor.

The *Depot for the Religious Tract Society* is at Mr. George Ward's, 11, Broadgate.

COVENTRY CRECHE AND COOKING KITCHEN.—This institution occupies a portion of some old buildings of timber frame work, in Priory-row, and is supported by the sale of 1s. 6d. tickets, which are purchased by benevolent persons and given away to poor persons, who are, on presentation of the tickets at the kitchen, entitled to receive “five dinners of wholesome and nourishing food.” It is managed by a committee of ladies. Miss A. Rotherham is the *secretary*.

COVENTRY WORKING MEN'S CLUB AND CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.—This institution was established in 1866, and is held in Little

Park-street. There are news and bagatelle rooms. It is supported by subscription. John Ashton, *secretary*.

COVENTRY LIBERAL CLUB.—This has been recently established in Cross Cheaping, under the presidency and patronage of leading members of the Liberal party. Mr. George Thorpe, *honorary secretary*; Mr. G. Haymes, *general secretary*.

COVENTRY WORKING MEN'S CLUB, New-street, was established about twelve years ago, mainly through the exertions of the Rev. W. L. Clay, then curate of Holy Trinity. Mr. J. Cooke, *secretary*.

BANKS.—Coventry and Warwickshire Banking Company, High-street (draw on London and Westminster Bank); Joseph Mountfort, *manager*. Coventry Union Banking Company, Little-Park-street (draw on Glyn and Company); William Lynes and Francis Wyley, *managing directors*.

### THE SAVINGS' BANK.

This institution is held at the Corn Exchange Buildings, Hertford-street, established 1825. It is a most useful institution, the rules of which inform us that "The object of this Institution is to afford a safe mode of Investment, at Interest, on Government Security, for such sums as Servants, Mechanics, Labourers, and others may be able to save; and for the funds of Charitable Institutions and Friendly Societies, legally established." The deposits during the first year amounted to £1,411 7s. 8d. We learn from the annual account for the year ending 20th November, 1873, that the total number of depositors for that year was 6595, and the total amount deposited was £172,299 10s. 9d.; 20 penny banks, the total amount was £1,066 10s. 7d.; 112 charitable societies, the total amount of balance was £4,570 10s. 4d.; and 144 friendly societies, the total amount was £17,183 8s. 9d. The total number of accounts was 6,871, and the total balances £195,120 0s. 5d.; the balance invested with the Commissioners on the separate surplus fund account, on the 20th November, 1873, was £2,400. It is further stated, that during the year, 10,259 deposits have been received, amounting, including interest, to £56,324 19s. 10d.; the



repayments amounted to £43,837 15s. 10d. The increase of the balance of the bank is £11,151 8s. 7d.; the total assets being £198,565 17s. Four immediate annuities have been purchased during the year, £779 2s. 7d. The committee in 1872 issued an "address to workmen on the advantages afforded by a Government Savings' Bank." The bank is open every Monday, from twelve to two o'clock; on Friday, from one to three o'clock; and on Saturday evenings (for receiving deposits only), from six till seven o'clock. One week's notice is required for the withdrawal of any sum under five pounds, and twenty-one days' notice for any amount above five pounds, except under special circumstances. The *Patrons* are the Right Honourable the Earl of Craven, the Earl of Aylesford, the Earl of Denbigh, and the Earl of Warwick. There are 11 trustees, and there are about 120 managers. The *Treasurer* is F. Wyley, Esq.; *Honorary Secretary*, J.B. Twist, Esq.; *Actuary*, Mr. Luke Dresser.

### THE BARRACKS.

These are situated at Smithford-street, and comprise a good stone building, erected in 1793, on the site of the once famous "Bull Inn," the entrance being through a massive arched gateway, over which are the Royal Arms. Passing onward, through a long avenue of stables, a fine spacious yard opens to the view, around which are the usual offices and buildings. This establishment affords good quarters to artillery, and is conveniently situated. The Barrack office, Purveyor's stores, and Barrack Sergeant's quarters, are situated at the bottom of the Barrack yard, and communicate with Hertford-street by means of a yard, known as the "Bull yard." There is a *Canteen*, which is conducted regimentally. Michael McCarthy, *superior barrack sergeant*.

NEWSPAPERS.—The periodical *Press* of Coventry supplies 5 weekly papers, viz.: The *Coventry Standard* (Conservative) established (under the name of the *Mercury*) 1741; office, Grey Friar's-lane; Executors of the late John Francis Webb, proprietors. The *Coventry Herald and Free Press* (Liberal), established 1808; office, 41,

Earl-street; Scott and Caldicott, publishers. These papers are both published on Friday. They are edited with great care and ability, and are widely circulated. The *Standard* is also published on Saturday. The three other papers are: The *Coventry Times* (Liberal), published on Wednesday; Goode and Price, proprietors; office, 18, Smithford-street. *Coventry Independent*, (Neutral), established October 15th, 1873; published on Wednesday; Coventry Independent Newspaper and General Printing Company, Limited, proprietors; office, Butcher-row. *Miners' Weekly News* (Saturday); Goode and Price, proprietors. These are carefully edited and well circulated.

THE PRINCIPAL INNS are the *King's Head*, Smithford-street and Hertford-street; Miss Sabin, proprietress: the *Craven Arms*, High-street; W. D. Claridge, proprietor: and the *Castle Hotel*, Broad-gate. These are all first class Commercial and Family Hotels, where every convenience and comfort will found. Conveyances may be hired at either of these hotels on the shortest notice.

THE THREE TUNS COMMERCIAL AND POSTING HOTEL, Warwick-road, is the nearest to the Station, being only about five minutes walk therefrom. It is a large and good house, well fitted-up with every convenience and accommodation for commercial gentlemen and private families. There are lock-up stable and coach houses. Jonas Kearthland, proprietor. Conveyances may be hired on the shortest notice.

BIRD'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, bottom of Hertford-street, is a large and good house, well fitted up with every convenience. It is about five minutes' walk from the Station.

PODBURY'S COMMERCIAL BOARDING HOUSE is in Market-street, near to the south entrance to the Market Hall. The charges are reasonable and accommodation good.

At the *Golden Lion Inn*, Ironmonger Row, there is a fine and valuable collection of British and foreign birds, animals, insects, &c. It is open gratuitously to the public daily, and there is a select harmonic company on Monday and Saturday evenings. Mr. D. Smith is the proprietor, who is also a dealer in and preserver of all kinds of British and foreign birds, &c.



## THE COVENTRY PUBLIC BATHS.

These are situated in Hales street, and comprise a large and substantial brick and stone building with a tower, and were erected in 1851. They are the property of the Corporation, and comprise two swimming baths, the largest of which is 60 feet square, and the other 60 by 30 feet, depth from 3 feet to 5 feet. There are also warm and cold water baths. The baths are open at 6 a.m. during the Summer months, and at 8 a.m. in December and January. They close at 9 a.m. in Summer on week days, except Saturday, when they remain open until 10 p.m., and 5 p.m. in December and January. George Wallace is superintendent.

## PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

The THEATRE ROYAL is near the Post Office and Barracks, but hidden from public view, up a yard on the south side of Smithford-street. It was erected by the late Sir Skears Rew, a member of the Corporation, and opened on Easter Monday, 1819. It has lately been beautified and renovated by Mr. John Garnett Taylor, the present lessee.

BRITANNIA THEATRE OF VARIETIES, Fleet-street. This place of amusement comprises a large and commodious Music Hall, which will accommodate about 1,500 persons. It has lately been elegantly refurnished and beautified by the present proprietor, Mr. John Garnett Taylor.

## GAS AND WATER WORKS.

The GAS WORKS, Gas-street, on the north side of the town, were erected in 1821, by a number of private gentlemen, but, before completion, an Act of Parliament was obtained, and the works were transferred to a company. The works have been of late years considerably enlarged, and the street mains extended. There are four gas holders. The town is well lighted by lamps. Messrs. Robinson Brothers are the lessees, and the company is styled "The Coventry Gas Company." Their office is at 61, Hertford-street.

The WATER WORKS.—This important undertaking was commenced in the early part of 1846, and completed towards the close of 1847, according to a plan prepared by Mr. Hawksley, engineer. The works are pleasantly situated at the top of Spon-street, in grounds near the river Sherborne, a spot where a confluence of springs presented a signal advantage for such a purpose. The works, which are the property of the Corporation, have of late years been much enlarged. There are now two engines: one in the style of Boulton and Watts' rotation condensing engine, and is 40 horse power; the other, built by Hawthorn, of Newcastle, is 60 horse power. The bore of the mains varies in diameter from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 inches, the entire length of which is about 16 miles. There are four artesian wells, two top springs, large water tank, and a filtering bed. The grounds around the works are laid out with trees and shrubs. There is a reservoir on an elevated piece of land on the Radford road, near the town; it covers rather more than one acre. At their first establishment these works cost about £22,000, but a large additional sum has, of course, been expended in the improvements. Mr. James Askew is the engineer, for whom there is a house on the premises.

#### COUNTY COURT.

This is held at the County Hall monthly, or oftener if required. The office is at Little Park street. *Judge*, Richard Harington, Esq.; *Registrar*, Thomas H. Kirby, Esq.; *High Bailiff*, Isaac N. Whitwell, whose office is at St. Mary-street; *Under Bailiffs*, Charles Haines and John Vice; *Managing Clerk*, George Whitlock; *Broker*, William Taunton. The *Coventry District* comprises the following places:—Allesley, Anstey, Berkeswell, Baginton, Binley, Corley, Coundon, Coventry, Earlsdon, Exhall, Fillongley, Foleshill, Keresley, Meriden, Packington Great and Little, Radford, Ryton-upon-Dunsmoor, Shilton, Sowe, Stivichall, Stoke, Stoneleigh, Willenhall, Withybrook, and Wyken.

COVENTRY VOLUNTEERS.—The head quarters and armoury are at New Buildings. *Commandant*, Major R. Caldicott; *Captains*, Messrs. Minster and Philips; *Sergeant Instructor*, William Henry Foster.



## UNION WORKHOUSE,

Top of Much Park street. This is a neat structure of brick, incorporated with which is a fine remnant of the Carmelite, or White Friars' Monastery, which will be found noticed at page 257. This workhouse was formerly called "The House of Industry," and came under the Poor Law Commissioners in 1841. The city contains two parishes for Poor Law purposes, St. Michael and Holy Trinity. The workhouse was enlarged in 1863, at a cost of between £4,000 and £5,000, and will accommodate 600 inmates. The receipts and expenditure of the Union amount to about £19,000 per annum.

## DIRECTORS OF THE POOR.

*Elected Easter, 1872.*

Mr. J. B. Loudon, *Chairman*  
 „ Alfred Connop  
 „ Albert Samuel Tomson  
 „ Edwin Flinn  
 „ Charles James Atkins  
 „ John Walker  
 „ Samuel Berry  
 „ David Gardner  
 „ Thomas Wallen  
 „ George Henry Lester

*Elected Easter, 1873.*

Mr. J. E. Breward  
 „ J. F. Lenton  
 „ J. B. Lamb  
 „ Charles Holt  
 „ George Lloyd  
 „ Thomas Heydon  
 „ George Thorpe  
 „ John Ross  
 „ Frederick Soars  
 „ L. S. Booth

John and Mary Bird, *master and matron*; Frederick Young and Louisa Clark, *school teachers*; William Withycombe Harris, *clerk*; Thomas Dewes, Esq., *superintendent registrar*; John Blundell (St. Michael's parish), and Benjamin Poole (Holy Trinity), *registrars of births and deaths*; John Weston, *registrar of marriages*, Fleet-street; James Arch, *relieving officer*; Thomas Caldicott (St. Michael's parish), and Thomas Ball Dusson (Trinity parish), *collectors of poor rates*. John Bicknell (Workhouse), John Overton, William Dresser, M.D., and Henry G. Shorter, Esqrs., *medical officers*; Edward Lynes, M.D., *public vaccinator*; James Arch, *vaccination officer*.

CITY CLUB.—This institution was established in 1865, in a house in the Bull Ring, but is held in an ancient house in Little Park street, known as Banner House. It is supported by subscription. In one of its rooms is some ancient carving. Frederick L. Errington is steward.

KNAVE'S POST is the figure of a man placed in a niche in the wall on the west side of Much Park street, and is probably an old statue removed from one of the religious houses at the dissolution. The origin of its name is attributable to the fact of parties committing depredations having been tied to a cart's tail and whipped from the Mayor's Parlour, in Cross Cheaping, to this figure. The last punished was about fifty years ago.

MEMORIAL TO SIR THOMAS WHITE.—We believe a scheme is in contemplation for the erection of a memorial to this worthy.

DRINKING FOUNTAIN.—This is a handsome structure of stone, situated at the bottom of Fleet-street, near St. John's Church, and erected in 1859, by the Coventry Temperance Society.

The present POST OFFICE, Smithford-street, opposite the Barracks, originally formed the office of the *Herald and Observer* newspaper, and was opened in 1847. It was a few years ago almost rebuilt and entirely re-arranged, and is a large and substantial building.

The INLAND REVENUE OFFICE is in the same building as the Post Office.

The STAMP OFFICE is at the Corn Exchange Buildings. Luke Dresser, distributor.

RAILWAY STATIONS.—There are two stations on the London and North-Western Railway. The *Coventry Station*, on the Warwick road, opened 9th April, 1838. It was in 1873 and 1874 mostly re-built, and now forms a large and commodious station, well fitted up with waiting rooms and other accommodations. The other is a small station at *Coundon road*, near the town.

The COVENTRY CANAL, top of Bishop-street. This was constructed under the provisions of an Act of Parliament obtained in 1768. The first general meeting of the company was held in that year, and the canal opened on August 10th in the following year. It is upwards of 32 miles long, terminating at Fradley Heath,



and through the medium of other canals communicates with London, Manchester, Liverpool, Staffordshire Potteries, all parts of Cheshire, &c. Mellor, Colsell and Co., *carriers*. John Walker, *agent*; office, 42, Bishop-street. The canal is the property of the Coventry Canal Company, to whom George Woodcock, Esq., solicitor, is *clerk*; office, Bailey lane. James Y. Greenwood, *accountant clerk*; and R. Sinclair, *engineer*. Their office is a good building fronting Bishop street, erected in 1788. There is a large wharf at the back.

#### RADFORD.

This is a considerable village and hamlet, in the parish of St. Michael, 1 mile N., inhabited principally by plush weavers. The new *Church* and *British School* are noticed at pages 317 and 336.

WHITMORE PARK,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles N.N., contains several scattered farms.

WHITMORE HALL, a large mansion, is the seat of Miss Phillips.

#### EARLSDON

Is a pleasant suburb about 1 mile distant. Here are many large villa residences. Many of the inhabitants are engaged in the watch trade.

#### WHITLEY.

This is a hamlet in the parish of St. Michael, 1 mile S.E.; containing Whitley Abbey, several farms, and a few scattered villa residences.

WHITLEY ABBEY,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.E., is a large neat mansion, pleasantly situated on rising ground and commanding extensive and picturesque views, and was formerly called Whitley Hall. The park contains about 250 acres, and is tastefully planted with trees, shrubs, walks, &c. A portion of the abbey was re-built about forty years ago, but it has been much improved, and a chapel added thereto by the present owner, Edward Petre, Esq., J.P., who purchased the estate from Viscount Hood. It was at Whitley Abbey, in 1642, that Charles I., when he unsuccessfully called the inhabitants of Coventry, established his head quarters. There

was anciently a chapel here, but no portion of it remains. On January 23, 1874, a fire occurred which resulted in the destruction of a large portion of the house, including the whole of the servants' apartments. The letters are despatched through Coventry, which is the nearest Money Order Office.

### CALUDON.

This is a hamlet, anciently a chapelry, about 3 miles N.E. by E. from Coventry, and was originally a member of that place, but is now included in the parish of St. Michael. It consists of two farms, and was one of the possessions of the Earls of Chester, and in the time of Richard II. was held by Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, who, on occasion of the intended combat on Gosford Green, between him and the Duke of Hereford, issued from his castellated mansion here to meet his antagonist. In the 10th of Henry VII. it was owned by Maurice Berkeley, whose descendants frequently resided here, but George Lord Berkeley sold the manor in the 7th of Charles I., and soon after it came into possession of Thomas Lord Clifford, to whose descendants it has been transmitted. In front of the house of Mr. William Driver is a massive fragment of the original castle, consisting of two large windows and some smaller ones; there are also considerable traces of the moat. The landowners are the Rev. E. H. Garrard, and G. A. Pridmore, Esq.

Camden thus describes Caludon:—"To the east is placed *Caloughdon*, vulgarly called *Caledon*, an ancient seat of the Barons *Segrave*, from whom it descended to the Barons *de Berkeley* by one of the daughters of Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk. These *Segraves* (from the time that Stephen *de Segrave* was Lord Chief Justice of England) were Barons of this Realm and enjoyed the inheritance of the *Chaucumbs*, whose arms from that time they assumed, viz., *a lion rampant argent, crowned or. In a shield, sable.* John, the last of this family, married *Margaret*, Duchess of Norfolk, daughter of Thomas *de Brotherton*, and had issue Elizabeth, who carry'd the honour of Marshall of England, and title of Duke of Norfolk into the family of the *Mowbrays*."



## PINLEY.

This is a hamlet in the parish of St. Michael, adjoining Stoke Green, consisting of several scattered farms. The land chiefly belongs to the Corporation of Coventry. There was formerly a chapel here, the remains of which were removed a few years since.

## WILLENHALL,

Commonly called WINNALL, an ancient member of Coventry, from which it is distant about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.E., is a hamlet in the parish of Holy Trinity, and formed a part of the munificent donation of Earl Leofric, to the Priory of Coventry, but is not named in his charter to the monks. At the dissolution it was granted by the crown to Sir Richard Lee, Knight, but it was almost immediately alienated, with the tithes, to John Hales, whose descendants retained possession of it until the commencement of the 18th century, when Sir Edward Hales sold the manor to the Duke of Montague. The Earl of Craven is the present lord of the manor, and owns the whole estate, excepting the blacksmith's shop and two cottages adjoining. Willenhall contains 440 acres of land, and in 1871 had 103 inhabitants. The gross estimated rental is £2,053 2s. ; rateable value, £1,864 18s.

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 CHARITIES' TRUSTEES.

## SIR THOMAS WHITE'S TRUSTEES.

John Gulson, Esq.  
 Alfred B. Herbert, Esq.  
 David Waters, Esq.

John Rotherham, Esq.  
 Charles James Bill, Esq.

*Clerks*—Troughton, Lea, and Kirby.

## CHURCH CHARITY TRUSTEES.

*The nominees to Bond's and Ford's Hospitals* are appointed by  
the Trustees following :—

William Lynes, Esq.	John Rotherham, jun., Esq.
Francis Wyley, Esq.	Mr. Henry R. Phillips
Henry Soden, Esq.	Mr. George Newark
R. Caldicott, Esq.	Joseph Odell, Esq.
William Stephenson, Esq.	Edward Dewes, M.D., Esq.
Rev. R. H. Baynes	Thomas Jenkins, Esq.
Rev. A. W. Wilson	

Messrs. Troughton, Lea, and Kirby, are their clerks.

## GENERAL CHARITIES' TRUSTEES.

The boys for the Bablake School are nominated by the Trustees, and they have the distribution of the £4 gift of the charities on Ash Wednesday and St. Thomas's Day; the granting of £50 or £100 loans to Freemen for nine years without interest (for which purpose a large sum of money is now available), and of giving premiums of £6 and £3 with apprentice boys.

Rev. Thomas Sheepshanks	Samuel Vale, Esq.
James Sibley Whitem, Esq.	Abija Hill Pears, Esq.
Mr. Thomas Smith	David Spencer Esq.
William Odell, Esq.	John Rotherham, Esq.

Henry I. Davis is their clerk.

## SMITH'S CHARITY TRUSTEES.

A considerable estate is in the hands of these Trustees, the revenue of which is distributed in money and coals. They also pay 8s. 4d. monthly to some poor persons.

Jas. S. Whitem, Esq.	John Gulson, Esq.
A. B. Herbert, Esq.	James Marriott, Esq.
Rev. John Gordon	Mr. John Purcell
Mr. S. Clarke	Rev. G. Heaviside



## MOORE'S CHARITY TRUSTEES.

A revenue of about £100 per annum is distributed in money and goods during the winter months by the following Trustees:—

Mr. Edward Cooper		Mr. David Spencer
Mr. John Cash		Mr. Richard Medwin Hands
Mr. W. F. Taylor		
		<i>Clerk</i> —Thomas Dewes, Esq.

## CHARITIES.

FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—*John Hales, Esq.*, of the city of London, by deed 17th Dec., 1572, granted and confirmed to Thomas Doewra and Bartholomew Hales, and their heirs, the site of the house and church, formerly the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, in the City of Coventry, with all the houses, lands, and appurtenances, within the precincts of the said hospital in Coventry; and all houses and gardens within the said city, which were formerly part of the possessions of the late monastery or the cathedral church of Coventry, and the messuages, lands, and appurtenances, which were lately part of the possessions of the late monastery of Kenilworth, and all his mills, within the said city and suburbs, except the Priory mill, which, with the cathedral church, called the Priory, and all the estates thereto belonging, was secured to the said John Hales, Esq., to the intent that they should make a good and sufficient estate in the law of the premises to the mayor, bailiff, and commonalty of Coventry, and their successors, for the support of a Free Grammar School in the said city, and of one master for teaching scholars in the said school, and for other necessary matters relating to the said John Hales, Esq., who had founded and managed the school during his lifetime, under letters patent of King Henry VIII., dated at Portsmouth, 23rd July, and 37 of his reign. After his decease the above deed was found to be invalid, and an Act of Parliament, passed in the 23rd year of Queen Elizabeth, for perfecting the above endowment to the Free Grammar School of Coventry. The property belonging to this school, in 1743, gave an income of £155 14s. 8d. In 1759, Rev. Edward Jackson, the head master of this school, instituted proceedings against the Corporation in the Court of Chancery, for a discovery of the state and condition of the school estate, &c. By an Act of Parliament, passed in the year 1734, reciting that the Corporation were owners of the Church of Bablake, by virtue of letters patent of Edward VI., it was enacted, that the said church should, from the 23rd June, 1734, be a parish, by the name of the Church of St. John Baptist, in the city of Coventry; and that there should be a rector and lecturer in the

said church. The rector was to perform Divine service and preach in the morning, and the lecturer in the afternoon, on the Lord's Day, and assist the rector in all holy offices of the church, and that the revenue of the head master and usher of the school might be improved, and as a compensation for any misapplication of the school estates, the master of the school should be the rector and the usher the lecturer. This connection, however, some years ago was severed in accordance with a scheme agreed upon in 1857, the then master, the Rev. J. Sheepshanks, receiving a pension of £450 yearly, and retaining his rectory of St. John's Church, a new scheme being appointed to the Grammar School. The clear surplus of the school estate, after the payment of a singing-master, the repairs necessary, and the bailiff for collecting rents, &c., is paid two-thirds to the head master and one-third to the usher. But by an order of the Council House in 1832, the bailiff was also required to retain £60 per annum to form a fund for repairs. The school to be open to all free inhabitants within the city, and the inner liberties thereof, and to none other, they paying 12s. 10d. admission—two parts to the master and one part to the usher. The head master's residence was formerly an old mansion, with a meadow and garden adjoining, now occupied by Mr. Reynolds, furniture remover, and formerly the master had from 20 to 30 boarders and as many in the day school.

*The Library*, attached to the school, was founded in 1602, and consisted of works presented by persons who had been educated at the school, or by the gentry of the city and neighbourhood. An inspection and catalogue was taken by a committee of the Corporation, in January, 1831, when it was evident not the slightest pains had been taken for their preservation; many were missing, and the whole in a state of dampness and decay.

*Simon Stone*, by will, 1614, directed his trustees to sell the manor of Walburton, in the county of Sussex, and with part of the money arising from the sale to purchase a rent charge of £3 6s. 8d., to them and their heirs, which he directed them to pay to Samuel Stoughton so long as he should continue a student in Oxford, and afterwards for a maintenance of a poor scholar of the Free Grammar School of Coventry; and he gave his Calepiore's Dictionary for the use of the scholars at the Free School. The Corporation received £50 from this gift, and secured a rent charge of £3 6s. 8d., payable out of Prior's Orchard, for the performance of Stone's will, and which, though long suspended, they were willing in 1832 to resume to proper objects.

*Thomas Lane*, by will, 1656, gave all sums due to him by bonds and bills, amounting to £1,100 or thereabouts, should be laid out in lands by his executors. The yearly rents, together with all his fee-farm rents, not disposed of, should be bestowed for the fitting door scholars for the University, and their maintenance there during the space of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years, and no longer; and for the relief of ministers'



widows, both to be of the county of Warwick, and of the city, and county of the city of Coventry, viz., three parts for the poor scholars, and one part for the poor widows. He appointed the mayor and the steward of the city of Coventry, and two ministers, and the lecturer for the time being, for ever, overseers and trustees of that, his gift, &c. The property now consists of Bradnock's mill farm, and Bradnock's marsh farm, in the manor of Balsall, and parish of Berkswell: the former containing 34a. 1r. 26p. of land, with a mill and house, &c., on the river Blyth; and the latter 63a. 0r. 22p., with the house. These farms are united by an allotment of 8a. 1r. 3p., made on an enclosure of commons, about fifty years ago; and 1a. 3r. 6p, of this land has been sold for £420 to the Birmingham Railway Company. The rent was to be paid out of the premises to the governors of the Temple, Balsall charity. There are now under this bequest six exhibitions, tenable for seven years' value £5 per annum for three years, and £56 per annum for the remaining four.

*The Rev. Samuel Frankland*, master of this school, by will, 1691, left to the master and fellows of Catherine Hall, Cambridge, certain property for the maintenance of a fellow in the said Hall, to be sent out of the Coventry Free School, to be called the Frankland Fellowship. The election to be in the said master and fellows.

*Sir Thomas White's Fellowship*.—The Corporation of Coventry pay to St. John's College, Oxford, a sum of £40 per annum; in respect of which, they are entitled to have two fellows, on the foundation of that college, from the Free School of Coventry.

*Bablake Men's Hospital*—*Thomas Bond*, of the city of Coventry, draper, by will, 1506, directed that there should be established a bede house in Bablake, and that there should be built a chapel and one mass said therein weekly, on the Sunday, and therein to be ten poor men, and one woman, to dress their meat and drink, &c. The testator died on the day his will bears date, leaving his son and executor, John Bond, surviving him. An almshouse was erected by John Bond, in concert with other trustees named in the will; but he died in 1538, before he had completed his object of establishing the charity, leaving Thomas Bond his son and heir. By his will he confirmed the will of his father, and directed that it should be fully carried out, &c. There are now (1873) forty-five poor men, who receive 6s. per week, twenty of whom are inmates; have fire and washing provided, a nurse and servant to wait upon them.

*Richard Baldwin*, by will, 1559, gave £60, to be put out on loans of £10 each, of which nothing is now known; and he gave his house, in Fleet-street, in Coventry, and other property adjoining, to his son and the heirs of his body; and for lack of such issue, to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty in trust, to apply the yearly rents of the same for the augmentation of the living of the poor almsmen of Bablake. The Bablake estates were next augmented by the pur-

chase of the Beech-wood farm, in the parish of Berkswell, for the sum of £1,826 8s., in 1727, and arising out of a suit in Chancery, instituted on account of a sale of timber from the charity estates, whereby £841 19s. 3d. was paid into court by John Collins, the purchaser of the timber, and £984 17s. 9d., the remainder, was paid by the trustees of the charity.

*William Hindman*, by will, 1558, gave 6s. 8d. yearly, to be paid to the poor of Bond's Hospital, to be issuing out of a messuage in Well-street; Mrs. Mullies, the present owner, pays the charge. *Murdock's* gift, paid by the Drapers' Company to one of the poor men, on May-day annually, 6s. 8d.

*Thomas Nicholls*, by will, 1584, directed that his executors should pay to the mayor and aldermen £100, to be by them put forth in free loan, within this city, to ten clothiers, makers of broad cloth, £10 to each for three years, of good security, of this nothing is known. He also left 3s. 4d. to the poor men of Bablake's hospital. This sum had not been paid for many years; but in 1833 the Corporation promised to resume this payment. *Richard Barker*, by will, 1604, gave to the poor of Bablake Hospital 13s. 4d; this is paid by the Corporation on Ash Wednesday.

*Thomas Bentley*, by will, 1604, gave to his son Thomas, and the heirs of his body, his orchard, in Dead-lane, in Coventry; and in case his son died without issue, he directed 10s. a year should be distributed in money or bread to the poor inhabitants in Dead-lane; 10s. to the poor men of the hospital of Bablake's; and 6s. 8d. for a sermon at the church of St. Michael, on St. Thomas's-day; on which day the other distributions were to be made. It does not appear that any distribution has ever been made on account of this charity.

*William Wheate*, by will, 1615 (see this after); the poor men of Bablake Hospital are entitled to one-fourth of tithes purchased at Keresley under this will. By the report of this charity, in 1833, it was calculated that an arrear of £161 17s. 10½d. was due to Bablake Hospital, which the Corporation declared they were ready to pay; and also to pay annually in future £12 14s. 4d., subject to the increase or reduction of Keresley tithes. *Simon Norton*, by will, 1641 (see this after), gave a portion of the interest of 300 marks to provide for a almsman in Bablake Hospital; this was paid until 1794, and in October, 1833, the arrears were found to amount to £185 18s., which the Corporation declared they were ready to pay, and also the annual dividends regularly. These two last named charities, with £4 15s. 4d., the interest of stock purchased, with the arrears paid, make an annual increase of £26 0s. 8d., to be paid by the Corporation to this charity. These estates, by the decree of 1759, were vested in a body of trustees thereby appointed. The Corporation of Coventry, under the same decree, are appointed to nominate the objects of the charity, and apply the rents and profits of the estate "in the repairs and maintenance of the poor persons."



The hospital premises, situate in Bablake-street, have a garden behind them, and form one side of a quadrangle, facing St. John's Church. The buildings are very ancient. In 1833 plans and estimates were prepared for their rebuilding; and the gateway tower, which forms a common entrance to both Bond's and Wheatley's Hospitals, had been restored at their joint expense. The building is a fine specimen of timber framework, which is carefully preserved. It comprises a common hall, board room, and other offices. There are at present (1873) 45 men on this establishment, of whom 15 reside in the house, and the rest out-pensioners. They all receive 6s. each per week, but do not partake of any other of the city charities. It is not required that the men should be single or widowers, but in general those who live in the hospital are such, and the married men are out-pensioners. They consist mostly of decayed tradesmen, and at least 60 years of age; and are appointed by the members of the Council in rotation. It is not considered necessary that they should be freemen, though most of them are of that class, but lose their vote on nomination. They all wear black gowns on Sundays, supplied by the charity when necessary. They are assembled at the hospital every Sunday morning, when two members of the Corporation attend, and the names are called over. They are then marched to St. Michael's Church door; but as many of them are Dissenters, those who chose are allowed to attend their own meeting. In 1831 there were 51 men on the list; but in order to accumulate a building fund, they have been reduced to the present number. There is also a nurse who lives in the hospital, and receives 15s. a week, and a servant, who receives £5 year. The nurse superintends the bedding and linen of the poor men. The washing for the establishment, and medicines, in case of sickness, are paid for out of the funds of the charity. When a pensioner dies, 25s. is allowed towards his funeral. Coals are supplied for the common hall, and during the winter months one hundred weight per week is allowed for each of the 15 rooms; also coals for the nurse's room and cooking kitchen. The total expenditure averages about £1,000 per annum.

*Edward Lupkin*, by will 1632, gave to the poor people of Bablack ward 5s. yearly, to be paid out of lands, and the house where Toby Parr dwelt, "To buy a piece of meat for the old men of Bond's Hospital." This seems not now identified.

*Edmund Palmer*, by will proved 1641, gave a messuage for the better maintenance of the poor people in Bablacke. This house, it appears, was pulled down by order of the council of war for the preservation of the city, and the materials ordered to be sold for £10, and another house was to be set up within the city, to supply so much of the charitable gift as that lost. By an indenture 1764, a fee farm rent of 25s. appears to have been secured on this site, but up to 1833, nothing appears to have been paid.

MANOR OF STOKE.—By an indenture 1592, *John* and *Reginald Horne*, as well in consideration of the sum of fourscore pounds, as

also for the better maintenance of the said city, for the relief of the poor of the same, and for the reparation of the Bablacke Hospital, and for the relief of the poor of the same, gave and granted, to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty, and their successors for ever, the manor of Stoke, and messuages, orchards, and lands thereunto belonging, situate in Stoke, and in the city of Coventry, and in Eccleshall and Radford, in the county of the city of Coventry, &c., to hold the said manor and premises, &c., unto the said mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of Coventry. From the year 1650 to 1709, the Corporation's receipts from this manor amounted to £5 18s. 6d., of which nothing was appropriated to any charitable use. It was agreed, some years ago, that 5s. should be paid for a stable, and 1s. 6d. for every thousand bricks made from clay obtained on Stoke heath. It was also agreed that the Radford rents should be paid to the Corporation. The Coventry rents are considered as the private property of the Corporation. And as there are no uses declared in the deed, neither the Bablacke Hospital nor any other charity can be considered as having any claim.

BABLAKE BOYS' HOSPITAL was founded in 1560, on the place where it now stands, being a house in the city. It was for some years maintained by the charity of the well-disposed citizens and strangers, till *Thomas Whateley*, by indenture 1563, granted to Richard Over and eleven others, all his manor or capital messuage in Little Packington, with various other messuages and lands, all of which premises then amounted to the clear yearly value of £49 11s., to hold the said premises in trust, to hold to him and his assigns for the term of his life, and that they and their heirs had received one year's rent, they would yearly for ever, between the 1st and 24th of December, deliver the same to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty for the time being all the profits, charging for the receipts, reparations, and other necessary allowances, to the intent that they should distribute the same as follows, viz.: to every such twelve poor men being householders in the said city most in need of relief, 30s., and every such twelve poor widows being householders, 10s., and 10s. a-year to every of like four poor men, householders in the several parishes of Warwick, Rugby, Henley-in-Arden, Tamworth, Solihull, and Nuneaton, and that the said mayor and aldermen should yearly bestow the residue of the rents and profits amongst the poor people that should be brought up in the house called Babbylacke, or if that should decay and not continue, then to the most needy persons of the city. *Henry Over*, by will 1567, gave to trustees two tenements in Spon-street and one in Hill-street, on trust to pay the rents thereof in relief of the poor children of Bablacke. *John Sneade* granted 1576, to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of Coventry and their successors, a barn and close in Hill-street, to hold the same for the use and maintenance of poor boys in the hospital of Bablake. *Richard Sauners*, by will 1595, gave all his tenement, with the shops, &c., then in the occupation of William



Randall and himself, unto the maintenance of the poor children of the hospital of Bablake, provided there should be paid thereout 26s. 8d. yearly, towards the relief of the poor men and women in the hospital in Grey Friar's-lane. *Nicholas Chambers*, by will, gave two tenements in Smythford-street, to the only use of the poor children of the hospital of Bablacke, to make them portions of money to give with them to their masters with whom they should be apprentices. *Abraham Bowne*, by indenture 1625, granted to trustees his close with the appurtenances lying in or near Radford, in the county of the city of Coventry, to hold after the decease of the granter and his wife, upon trust to employ the rents for the maintenance of so many poor children as it would maintain in the hospital of Bablacke. *Samuel Collins*, by will 1721, devised to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty, and their successors, one half yard land at Spratton, in the county of Northampton, in trust yearly at the feast of St. Thomas, to apply the clear rents annually in supplying the necessities of the poor children in Bablacke Hospital. *Mr. Bagnel* gave a tenement in Cuckoo-lane. The house was taken down in 1829, to enlarge the city gaol, and the sum of £200 was awarded by a jury to the Corporation, trustees of the charity, as a compensation: this money was laid out in the purchase of £231 11s. three per cent annuities, and the dividends directed to be paid to the said trustees for Bablacke boys' charity estate. By the omission of the agent, the purchase was not made till 18 months after the order given. His executors have agreed to the trustees £7 10s. 4d. for the difference of the price of Stocks at the respective periods: these sums were also to be invested. *John Tallans*, by will 1563, left four marks by the year, from a tenement at Fletch-ampstead, in the parish of Stoneleigh, agreeable to an indenture in 1617: the rent charge was made £4, of which £2 is paid from the Broad-lane estate and £2 from the Bayes estate, in Fletchampstead, the property of Weaman Lant, Esq. *Thomas Dudley*, by will 1581, devised certain lands to his wife, upon condition that she granted thereout a yearly rent of £5 to the overseers of his will and their heirs, to the use of the poor children of Bablacke, and should also grant a yearly rent of 6s. 8d. to the same overseers and their heirs, to be employed for the relief of the Gosford-street ward for the payment of the fifteenth, when the said ward should be charged therewith. In 1581, *Alicia Dudley*, the widow, granted a yearly rent charge of £5 and one of 6s. 8d. to be issuing out of all the lands belonging to her late husband in Coventry and elsewhere, to trustees on trust for the above-named purposes. The above sum was by the council-house divided to several payments and divisions of the property, of which several are not now paid. *Richard Smith*, by will 1591, willed that there should be yearly paid out of his house at the Little Park-street end and the two stables 20s. towards the maintenance of the poor children in Bablacke: the owner pays the charge. *John Whitehead*, by will 1597, bequeathed to the use

of the poor children of the almshouse of Bablacke, a yearly rent charge of £3, to be issuing out of the Chauntry close : the present owner pays the charge. *William Seuwall*, by will 1624, gave to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty, and their successors, one yearly rent charge of 20s., issuing out of a tenement in West Orchard-street, Coventry ; also another rent charge of 20s., out of a tenement in the High-street : the first was agreed to be paid by the owner of the Thistle public house so charged in West Orchard ; of the second, the owner of a large house in High-street ; and the other is to be paid by the owners of a house in the same street.

DRAPERS' COMPANY.—There is annually paid to this charity the sum of £6 19s. by the Company of Drapers ; besides which, it has £6 13s. 4d. from certain guild and chauntry lands, £4 17s. in respect of *William Wheates'* gift from tithes in Keresley, £1 a rent charge from the gift of *Thomas Nicholls*, 10s. part of a rent charge granted by *Richard Baker*, 10s. payable under the will of *Elizabeth Sharratt*, £7 from the will of *Isaac Walden*, £3 under the will of *Simon Norton*, 10s. as *Davenport's* gift for wine on St. Thomas's Day, £2 8s. as the interest of £40 given by *Thomas Hunton*, cutler, of London, who, being an orphan, born in 1602, was placed in the Bablake school and afterwards sent to London, gave this £40 to the Corporation on the condition that they added one more boy to the hospital ; £4 8s. from a bequest of *Thomas Wheatley* for loans, £12 the interest of a legacy of £300 bequeathed by the will of *William Edwards*, and invested in the purchase of £400 Three per Cent. Consols, in the name of the Corporation, 9s. 4d. as interest of a residue in the hands of Bunney and Co. *Mary Turner*, in 1608, gave £10 to this charity, of which nothing is now known. *Thomas Saunders* gave certain premises, supposed to be some houses in Lichgate. *Thomas Scott* gave lands, supposed to be in Cow-lane and Grey Friars'-lane. The total income of this charity is upwards of £1,000 per annum. A new school and residence for the master was built in the years 1832-3, at a cost of near £2,000. It is in character with the ancient buildings by which it is surrounded, and in 1849 the repairs in Bond's Hospital were completed. The whole forms three sides of a very handsome quadrangle, the churchyard and Church of St. John forming the fourth side. The hospital and matron's residence is of timber. The sum of £1,500 was supplied from the funds of the charity, £118 6s. from the sale of old materials, on taking down the ancient Dirge Hall, and £345 for the site to enlarge St. John's churchyard. The number of boys in the old school was 26, all of whom were lodged and boarded. During the progress of the building the vacancies were not filled up, but as soon as completed, the number was increased to 40 ; it has since been increased to 70. They are the sons of respectable poor persons of Coventry, but not necessarily of freemen, and are nominated by the members of the council in rotation. The children are clothed annually in an ancient and



peculiar dress, the coat being of blue. They are admitted from 11 to 12 years of age and stay till 14 years, when they are bound out to different trades with premiums of £4 each, and clothes to the value of £3 16s. 6d. It was agreed in 1833, that part of the boys on being admitted shall attend as day scholars for one year, before being taken into the house. The boys are lodged and boarded under the care of a matron, who resides in the hospital, and has a salary of £30 per annum and maintenance for herself and servant. The schoolmaster resides in the house appropriated for him, and has a salary of £38 a year. The boys are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, using the books supplied by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. They have also a reading library, supplied from the same society. A regular visiting book is kept. This school was formerly under the control of the Corporation, but it is now under the management of the General Charity Trustees.

GREY FRIARS' HOSPITAL, so called from its proximity to a monastery of that name, was founded under the will of *William Ford*, 1509, who, amongst other things, declared that one almshouse should be built beside the Grey Friars' gate within Coventry, for five men and one woman to dwell in, and those to have 5d. a piece weekly for ever, for the payment whereof he ordered that lands and tenements should be bought by the discretion of his executors. *William Pisford*, in accordance therewith, erected the almshouses and put therein the five men and one woman, and also with the money of the said *William Ford*, purchased lands and tenements for the continuance thereof. The said *William Pisford*, by will 1517, amongst other things, declared that there should be admitted into the same almshouses, by the master of the guild of the Holy Trinity and his successors, six poor men and their wives, being nigh to the age of threescore years or above, and should have 7½d. a week; that if the wife of any should die before her husband, he should have the 7½d. a week. If any of the men died before their wives, the wife should have but 3½d. a week, and two similar widows should live together; and he further ordered his executors to purchase lands and tenements to the yearly value of 20 marks, to the use and intent that a priest should be founden for ever, to sing for the souls of the said *William Pisford*, and the souls of others therein mentioned; and the said priest should have for his stipend yearly £6, to be paid to him quarterly, and to be appointed by the master of the said guild, &c. Lands and hereditaments were purchased by *William Wigston*, an executor, to the value of 20 marks, and he also ordered a yearly obit to be kept at the Grey Friars, &c. The estate was conveyed to 12 persons as feoffees, whereof four were to be of the Grocers' Company; and he also made ordinances and rules for its government. The uses for which these funds were given, being in part superstitious, were under the statute of 1 Edward VI., 1547, seized into the hands of the Crown, and partly sold to the Corporation. The Royal Commissioners,

“ knowing the charity of the hospital to be of a different nature, and not forfeited to the king, made some order for preserving the interest of the poor, and the continuance of the hospital.” There are also the following :—*Christopher Davenport's*, 10s. per annum. *Thomas Jesson*, by will 1653, left £200, which was received by the city, and settled Conduit meadow upon feoffees for the payment of the annual sum in charity to this hospital, &c. Nothing appears to have been paid in respect of this, but for the future the Corporation have agreed to pay the interest as directed by the will. *William Wight* by will gave £5 to the poorest almshouse in this city, and it was brought into the Council House, 1652, and then agreed that 8s. a year should be paid to this hospital, but was many years discontinued. In 1833, the Corporation signified their willingness to resume the payment. From *Thomas Crow's* charity 2s. a week is given to each of eight poor women in this hospital. The number of pensioners were (1833) on this foundation 37, who each received 3s. 6d. per week, and the nurse 6s. a week, amounting to £352 per annum. There were, in 1849, 17 female inmates and 23 out-pensioners who received the same allowance. In 1873, there were 17 female inmates and 29 out-pensioners, who each receive 4s. weekly, 1½ tons of coal yearly, and a brown cloak occasionally. Each also receives a copy of the Prayer Book. The hospital is a very ancient building of timber frame-work. It is supposed to be the most beautiful specimen of its kind in the kingdom; and John Carter, the antiquarian, quaintly says, “ It deserves to be kept in a glass case.” It was erected before the year 1517, and has been preserved with much care in its original state. There are 17 rooms occupied by the inmates, besides those used by the matron, trustees, a public wash-house, &c. There is also a large garden at the back, of which each inmate has a part, and a portion is let for £1 4s. per annum and divided amongst the inmates. The 17 poor pensioners, with the nurse, reside in the hospital, and the others are out-pensioners, and succeed to vacancies as they occur. They are all appointed by the members of the council in rotation. Mrs. Caroline Bennett is matron.

*Sir Thomas White, Knt.*, merchant tailor, of the City of London, minding to relieve the commonwealth of the city of Coventry, paid into the hands of the mayor of the said city and his brethren, the sum of £1,400, with which various estates and rents belonging to King Henry VIII., lying as well in the city of Coventry and county of the said city as in the County of Warwick, of the clear yearly value and rent of £70 or thereabouts, as by the letters patent under the great seal dated at Walden, 19th July, 34 Henry VIII., 1542, did fully show. It was covenanted between the master and wardens of the Merchant Tailors' Company of London, and the said mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the city of Coventry, that they and their successors for ever, should immediately after the decease of the said Sir Thomas, yearly pay of the said rents of £70 in manner



following, viz: to twelve poor men, householders of Coventry, in free alms, on the 10th of March, or within six days, the sum of £24 to each 40s. for their relief; they who had the alms one year should not be elected thereunto again within five years next following, unless it was thought as charitable to help those persons as any other; and also, that the said mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty, should yearly, after one full year after the death of the said Sir Thomas, upon the 10th of March, or within one quarter of a year next ensuing, deliver by way of free loan yearly, during the space of 10 years next after one full year ended, the sum of £40 to four young men of the said city of Coventry as were free and had been apprenticed in the said city, each of them £10 for the space of nine years, putting in bond and sureties upon the receipt thereof for the repayment at the end of nine years to the said Corporation; and after the repayment of all such sums, the Corporation should again deliver the same to other young men on free loan for nine years, putting in bond, &c.; and also, after the end of the said ten years, the Corporation should for the space of thirty years ensuing, deliver and pay to two other like young men on the same conditions £20 each, to have the occupation nine years on giving security, &c. After the expiration of the said thirty years, the Corporation should deliver in free loan the said £40 to one young man of the said city for nine years, finding surety as aforesaid, &c. And it was further covenanted and agreed between the said parties, that the said mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty should pay the sum of £40, which should become due in the second year after the end of the said thirty years, to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of Northampton, to be lent out in the said manner as above stated, &c., and that the sum of £40 which should grow due in the third year after the said thirty years should be paid to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of Leicester for the above-named purposes; and the sum of £40 which should grow due on the fourth year after the said thirty years, the Corporation of Coventry covenanted to deliver in like manner to young men of Nottingham, finding sureties to the mayor and burgesses of Nottingham, at ten pounds each, &c. The sum of forty pounds growing due in the fifth year next after the said thirty years, the said Corporation of Coventry covenanted to pay to the mayor and burgesses of Warwick, to be by them lent in the above manner; and after the said five years should be expired, then one year for the city of Coventry, and one year for every of the said four towns of Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, and Warwick, the sum of £40 which should be due, should be delivered to one young man at the end of every nine years for ever, and so to the other four corporations, to be continued in the mentioned order, for the said towns, until 100 years should be expired, after the order and rate of £40 to one young man of Coventry, and also to four several young men of the said four towns, of £10 a man for nine years for the

space of 100 years, in all the said towns. After which the said sum of £40 which should grow out of the premises, should in the same manner be delivered to one young man of the said corporations for the term of nine years, &c., the same young men not again to have the advantage thereof; the said four corporations, upon the receipt of such money, should make sufficient surety to the Corporation of the city of Coventry, for the true employing of the same, &c. And it was further covenanted that 20s., growing out of the premises, should, after the death of the said Thomas White, be paid yearly to the Merchant Tailors' Company of London, at the Feast of Bartholomew, or within twenty days after, for their labour to be taken therein, to see the said charity fully performed. It was further covenanted, that each of the twelve almsmen, and all the said young men that should receive the loan money within the said city should be yearly elected on the 10th of March, or within one quarter of a year next after, and that the Corporation of the city of Coventry should receive the sum of £4 for their trouble, &c., parcel of the yearly rents of the said premises, viz., to the mayor, recorder, and ten aldermen, each of them 6s. 8d., and to the town clerk that should keep the accounts, the yearly payment of 20s., and the like sums to the other four towns. It was further agreed, that all securities concerning the free loans should be made without any charge by the person so receiving the 20s. a year for his labour. The said Corporation of the city of Coventry stood bound to the said master and wardens in the sum of £4,000 for duly keeping the said covenants, and certain fines for negligence fixed. By a schedule of the lands and tenements belonging to the trust, the total annual income, at the date of the original indenture, was £77 12s. 4d.; from this sum was to be deducted a payment of £7 13s. 2d. reserved as a rent to the Crown. This payment was purchased about the year 1825 by Mr. Joseph Jordan of Coventry. For a period of about 140 years, the original stipulated payments continued to be made, and the whole surplus was retained by the Corporation for their own use. In Hilary Term, 1695, an information was filed against the Corporation by the Attorney-General, at the relation of the Merchant Tailors' Company, on behalf of the inhabitants of Coventry and the other four towns. In 1700, the information was dismissed, but, upon an appeal to the House of Lords, that dismissal was reversed, and a declaration was made that the increased rents of the charity estates, above the £70 per annum, ought to go in augmentation of the several charitable uses and appointments expressed in the same deed of the 6th July, 1551. The cause, accordingly, came to be heard in the Court of Chancery, on the 12th of June, 1703, when the court decreed the improved and full value of the lands in question to be applied to the increasing of the said charities and appointments, according to the order of the House of Lords, and referred it to the master to state the yearly value of the said lands. The master's report,



after being twice referred back, certified the yearly value of the charity estate to amount to £858 15s. 4d., subject to the payment for taxes of £142 and tenths to the Crown, £7 13s. 2d., leaving £709 2s. 2d., to divide which, the first year, beginning from the 25th March, 1709, was wholly to go to the city of Coventry for the following purposes:—£243 3s. to be distributed among 121 poor men, 40s. each, and the remaining 23s. 3d. to one poor man, £405 4s. 2d. to be put out in free loans; £10 2s. 6d. to be paid to the master and wardens of the Merchant Tailors' Company; £40 10s. to the mayor; recorder and aldermen, £3 7s. 6d. each; £10 2s. 6d. to the town clerk. The £405 4s. 2d. for the free loans to be paid to the other corporations yearly in succession. The Corporation of Coventry were also ordered to pay a balance of £2,241 1s. 3d. into court within three months, the balance of the rent of estates in their hands, until which time the transfer and settlement of the said trust should be suspended. It was finally also ordered, 27th February, 1718, that the £243 3s. to divide, instead of £24, should be disposed of to 60 poor men, £4 each, and to one man, £3 3s.; and that the loan money should be lent to eight men, £50 each; and the remaining sum, £5 4s. 2d., to be kept in the bank. The balance was not paid by the Corporation within the time limited, though repeatedly enlarged. A sequestration was issued in May, 1712, for levying the said sum of £2,241 1s. 3d. out of the real and personal estates of the Corporation, which remained in force for seven years, at the end of which time, the money having been raised and paid into court, a petition of appeal from the decree of the 4th of March, 1711-12, was presented to the House of Lords, praying for a re-conveyance of the trust estate. A more formal application, by bill, was also made to the Court of Chancery for the above purposes, and judgment of the Lord Chancellor (Macclesfield) upon the whole matter was ultimately given, 20th December, 1723, whereby it was ordered that the trustees should execute a re-conveyance of the charity estate to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of Coventry, who were to pay the costs formerly ordered by the court to be paid; that the management of the estate should be restored to them as by the deed, 6th July, 1551; and the distribution, according to the decree, 27th February, 1810. The Corporation of Coventry have been regulated in the administration of the charity funds, by the various provisions laid down by the Lord Chancellor, 20th December, 1723. The rental of the charity estate, in 1853, was £2,940 9s. 10d. The land-tax, amounting to £143 9s., was redeemed in 1803 by a sale of property. The Corporation are entitled, besides the real estates above noticed to a sum of £5,259 16s. 8d. Three per cent. consols standing in their names, together with a sum of £400 like stock, belonging to the Bablake Boys' Charity, produced, in 1833, a dividend of £179 3s. 8d. This stock was purchased between the years 1823 and 1833, with the produce from Wyken Colliery. On the death of the bailiff of the

rents in 1828, it was found a balance of £2,941 13s. 7d. was due from him to this charity, but which, after much trouble, was settled, and the general account of the charity adjusted.

The share for loans applicable to the city of Coventry is carried to a separate account, under the control of a finance committee, consisting of the mayor and other members of the Corporation. The loans outstanding in 1723 were £3,680, and the proportions received since 1723 to 1830, £14,742 18s. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., which, with interest on three accounts, made a total of £18,829 14s. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., of this sum it appeared that £1,504 8s. 1d. had been lost, and £17,325 6s. 9d. was lent or invested till called for. Gross neglect appeared for many years in the superintendence of this particular branch; but of late years much care and great exertions have been used, and the actual diminution, by losses, is not greater than might fairly be expected in so long a period. The Corporation assign for the great accumulation of this fund, the difficulty of putting out on satisfactory security so small a sum, and the power to raise the loan to £100 or £200, if required, would be much more advantageous.

The proportion, 4-70ths, allotted to the mayor, recorder, and aldermen, is divided equally amongst them; 1-70th is remitted to the warden of the Merchant Tailors' Company, and the remaining 70th is paid to the Town Clerk.

In 1865 a large and handsome building of brick, designated the *Freemen's Orphan School*, was erected in Leicester-street, at a cost of £3,000, defrayed out of the funds of Sir Thomas White's charity. There are at the present time (1873) 31 girls, who are being educated free, 20 of whom are instructed in the usual branches of education, clothed, and trained for domestic service, the remaining eleven being only educated and clothed. They are admitted into the house at the end of their first year's tuition, and after remaining there two years they are sent out to service.

*Thomas Wheatley*, of Coventry (founder of the Bablake Boys' Hospital), by will, 1586, bequeathed to the mayor, bailiffs, commonalty of the city of Coventry, £800, to the intent to put forth the same in loan, of which £600 was to be divided amongst the various fellowships of the said city; £100 to be put forth by the head officer of Northampton, in loan amongst the artificers there; £50 to the Corporation of the town of Warwick, to be put forth in loan among the inhabitants; £50 to the town of Atherstone, to be put forth in loan amongst the inhabitants there. Provided always that sufficient sureties from all the parties for the repayment of the money to the Corporation, and fourpence for every pound, to be paid yearly at the feast of St. Michael, the same to be distributed in manner following:—10s. thereof to the mayor of the said city, and to ten aldermen of the said city ten nobles, and for three sermons to be preached within the city 20s., to the clerk of the council of the said city 10s., and the residue to be bestowed upon a collation for the said mayor and his brethren yearly; the loans to be put forth from



year to year. That the said fellowships and towns should yearly, at the feast of St. Michael, deliver all sums of money as they had in loan; and that the same should be put forth again within one month for one year in form aforesaid, provided should any of the fellowships or said towns not truly perform his will, then the said loan money so delivered to them, then he gave the same to the said mayor and his brethren to be bestowed in loan amongst the poor inhabitants of the city of Coventry, at their discretion. In 1667 the Corporation of Northampton repaid their £100, which they would hold no longer. The Corporation of Warwick had previously repaid their £50; other of the loans were lost by the discontinuance of the fellowships to which they were advanced. In 1753 an order was made to accept a composition of 6s. 6d. in the pound upon a loan of £50 to Joseph Steill, of Atherstone, whose sureties were insolvent, and who had himself absconded.

*William Stanley*, by will, 1638, gave to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty, £100, to be lent to five young men, freemen of the Company of Dyers, for three years, gratis, &c.; also £100 to the Company of Drapers, to be lent to five young men, gratis, for three years, &c. He also gave £100 to put forth ten freemen's sons, in London or Coventry. And to the Company of Drapers £100, to set to work poor children, when the place called the Drapery should be made a workhouse. He also gave £150 of *Nicholas Raby's* he had in his hands to the Company of Tailor's and Shearman, to be paid within five years after his decease, &c. Of these sums nothing is now known.

LOAN CHARITIES.—*John Haddon*, 1581, £200, also £100 to repair the roads of the city. *Dame Isabel Spencer*, 1539, £40. *Henry Over*, 1543, £500. *Thomas White*, 1546, £200. *William Wellington*, 1449, £120. *John Tallants*, 1562, £40. *Sampson Hopkins*, 1574, £200. *J. Thompson*, £40. *Simon Parker*, £40. *Thomas Nicholls*, 1584, £100. *William Sale*, 1588, £20. *Elizabeth Sharratt*, 1607, £100. *Richard Elkington*, 1607, £100. *Christopher Davenport*, 1627, £100. *Thomas Jesson*, 1634, £20 per annum. *John Armfield*, 1662, £40. Of these sums scarcely anything is now known. The confusion into which the affairs of the Corporation were thrown by the proceedings in the Court of Chancery and the sequestration of their estates may account for much of the loss of this money. The only part known to exist is a sum of £20 lent out many years ago from *Thomas White's* charity, and repaid in 1833.

*Thomas Warren*, by will, left to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty a yearly rent of 41s. 4d. issuing out of certain lands in Corley, whereof 20s. was to be employed for three sermons in Trinity Church, to be preached yearly, and the rest for the maintenance of the obit of the said *Thomas Warren*. By letters patent 6th Edward VI., the residue of the above rent charge above 20s., being 21s. 4d., was granted to the Corporation. This rent charge was agreed to

be paid from other lands, and the sum of 20s. is regularly paid to the vicar of Trinity, for three sermons annually, about St. James's-day.

*John Cockessonne*, by deed 1566, gave to Thomas Kervyn and two others, certain lands in the city of Coventry and in Radford, that they, their heirs and assigns, should, after the death of the said donor, yearly give 20s. for preaching three sermons in Trinity Church, in the said city; the first on the Sunday next before Michaelmas-day, and the other two on the two Sundays next following, and for ringing to the said sermons 4d. each, and to the mayor of the city for the time being 12d.; to the vicar of Trinity Church 12d., and to the churchwardens 12d., to see these things truly performed; and all the residue of the yearly rents and profits of the said premises, deducting for repairs, &c., should be given in free alms to the poor inhabitants at four times in the year by even portions.

*William Hopkins*, by will 1569, gave his tenement in Little Park-street, in the city of Coventry, to the Corporation, that they should yearly bestow 20s. thereof to some learned man, for preaching three sermons in the parish, or any other church, in the Lent season yearly. *Richard Hopkins*, by deed 1582, in part performance of the above will of his father William Hopkins, confirmed to the same Corporation and their successors, the above premises in Little Park-street. The Corporation agreed to pay £2 yearly to the vicar of St. Michael's.

*Rachael Baron*, by will, 1658, gave the Little Croft, lying without Gosford gate, to the Corporation of the city of Coventry, and their successors, on trust, that they should yearly pay to the minister of Holy Trinity 6s. 8d. for the preaching of a sermon in the said church, on the 24th of March; and on the same day pay all the rest of the clear rents to the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish, to be given in bread to the poor in New-street and West Orchard. It is now let for £2 year, and distributed accordingly.

*Richard Barker*, by will, 1604, gave to his son, Thomas Barker, and his heirs, five messuages in Much Park-street, without the New-gate, on condition that he and his heirs should, within four months after his decease, make a good assurance of the said premises to the Corporation of Coventry and their successors of the said five messuages, or of other lands, for the payment of £5 yearly rent to the said Corporation, which he gave as follows:—Ten nobles thereof to ten poor widows of the said city, whereof four should be in the Bishop-street ward, to every one of them 6s. 8d.; to the poor men of the Hospital of Bablake, 13s. 4d., to be equally divided; 10s. to the poor children of the Hospital of Bablake; and 10s. to the poor of the almshouse of Grey Friars, such sums to be distributed upon Ash Wednesday. By indenture, 1623, the above £5 was made to issue out of the Hill Close, lying in Foleshill, in the county of the city of Coventry, and is divided agreeable to the donor's will.



*Elizabeth Sharratt*, by will, 1607, gave £100 for the benefit of the poor of the city of Coventry, to be put forth in loans, &c.; but this loan money is not likely to be applied for, under the terms prescribed, and the Corporation pay £5 annually, in respect thereof, which is divided to the poor of Much Park-street ward, £1 10s.; of Cross Cheaping ward, 15s.; of Bishop-street ward, 15s.; poor children of Bablake, 10s.; Grey Friars' Hospital, 10s.; the mayor and aldermen, £1.

*Richard Elkington*, by will, 1607, gave to the corporation £50, upon trust, to lend to five poor artificers, &c.; the interest, 50s., he directed 40s. thereof to be distributed yearly, between the 21st and 25th of December, by the vicar and churchwardens of Trinity parish, to the poor thereof; and the other 10s. to the use of the town clerk, for making the poor men's bonds. The Corporation agreed to pay 40s., to be distributed as above directed, on New Year's Eve, in bread.

*Roger Clarke*, by will, 1612, gave £3 to be equally divided among six poor householders within the city of Coventry. *Richard Clarke*, by will, 1640, gave to the Corporation a rent charge of 40s., issuing out of his messuage and garden, in Much Park-street, to the intent that on St. Thomas's day, yearly, they should deliver the same to four poor freemen of the said city, that with his father's bequest of £3 there might be 10s. yearly given in each ward, and that ten poor men in each ward receive each 1s. accordingly.

*William Wheate*, by will, 1615, gave to Edward Stapleton and thirteen others, and their heirs, a yearly rent of £6 13s. 4d. to be issuing out of three meadows, within the liberties of the city of Coventry; £6 thereof towards the maintenance of two poor scholars at the University, to be chosen from the grammar school of this city, &c., and the other 13s. 4d. to the use of the person who should keep the library in the said city. And he devised £80 that the mayor, with eight of the said brethren, should purchase land therewith; and the rent to be divided into four parts; one part to be paid to a minister to preach at Bablacke church; one part to be divided amongst the poor almsmen of Bablacke, yearly; one part, yearly, for the renewing of the bedding of the poor children of Bablacke; and the last part, equally, amongst the poor men and women of the almshouse in Grey Friars'-lane: to be bestowed at Michaelmas and Lady Day, or within thirty days after. And he devised £40 to be lent to the master of Bridewell, for the setting to work such poor as should be committed to his charge. Nothing is known of this £40. By indenture, 1629, in consideration of £250, the tithes of Keresley, in the county of the city of Coventry, were conveyed to the mayor of Coventry, and others, for the charitable uses of Wheate and Stone, and Mr. Gayer's gift. By a decree of Edward Jackson, against the Corporation of Coventry, by the Lord Chancellor, 30th May, 1744, it was declared the above three charities ought to be established; and that £80, sum of Wheate's, directed

to be laid out in land; that £133 6s. 8d., being Gayer's charity, directed to be laid out to produce £9 per annum; and Stones' charity, being to purchase a rent charge of £3 6s. 8d. per annum. In the year 1833, the gross receipts of these tithes were £244 16s. 3d.; and from the increased value of the tithes, there were various sums due to the different charities, which the Corporation expressed their readiness to pay.

*Richard Smyth*, by will, 1623, granted to the Corporation a yearly rent of 20s. to be issuing out of a tenement, in the tenure of Henry Smith, baker, in or near Fleet-street, on the west side of the same street. This payment was made until 1709, and nothing since appears to have been given away in respect of it.

*Thomas Wale*, by will, 1625, gave to the mayor and commonalty of the city of Coventry, and their successors, for ever, his manor of Anglesey, in the county of Cambridge, with all his rights, lands, tenements, &c., in "Norton Juxta Twycross," in the county of Leicester, a messuage in Brinkloe, in the county of Warwick, with an orchard and close, &c. The rents to be bestowed, £20 towards the maintenance of a schoolmaster, in the town of Monks Kirby, in the county of Warwick, and £10 per annum for an usher for the said grammar school, for the free education of the children of Monks Kirby, Stretton, and Brinkloe, and none else. The mayor and Corporation of Coventry to elect the master, and the usher to be chosen by the said master, by the approbation of the said Corporation, &c. The residue of the above rents, and profits of the aforesaid manor and premises, to be yearly given toward the relief of poor people within this city, as they should think fit, deducting all necessary charges, &c. By a codicil the testator further willed, that the mayor and aldermen should yearly pay the sum of 40s. to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Brinkloe, to be distributed for the relief of the poor of the said parish. The devise was confirmed 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1626. The payments, £30 to the master and usher of Monks Kirby school, £2 to the churchwardens of Brinklow, for the poor, and £1 to three poor widows, to each of whom, though not directed by the will, has from a very early period been paid, 6s. 8d.; and five per cent. on the gross receipts is paid to the bailiff. The residue being bequeathed to the poor of the different wards of this city (in 1829), £480 was given away in sums of 10s. each by the Corporation, on St. Thomas's Day and Ash Wednesday. It was said, at that time, that a separate account would, in future, be kept of this charity; and the residue, after the fixed payments, amounting to near £230, given away.

*John Gayer*, and *Katherine*, his wife, by indenture, 1626, gave to the corporation of Coventry 200 marks, in consideration whereof they covenanted that they would buy so much woollen cloth of a "sad peere collar," which, with the making thereof, should amount to £9 per annum, to poor people, &c., on the 19th of Octo-



ber, yearly, or within 14 days thereof, in St. Mary's Hall, in the said city. This sum, as before noticed in Wheate's charity, is secured on the Keresley tithes.

*Christopher Davenport*, by will, 1627, gave certain tenements to Agnes, his wife, with remainder to the Corporation of Coventry, and their successors, without the Grey Friars' Gate, to bestow the rents as follows:—20s. for the preaching of three sermons yearly, in the church of the Holy Trinity, &c.; and the residue of the rents to be employed for the relief of the poor people of the hospital in Grey Friars'-lane. The houses were pulled down by order of the council of war, in 1643, and a rent of 10s. paid for the ground, as a close, until the year 1660, after which, it appears, with other rents in this neighbourhood, to have been paid to Sir Thomas White's charity; but the Corporation expressed their willingness to pay 10s. per annum to the Grey Friars' Hospital, out of the funds of Sir Thomas White's charity, and to make good all arrears. Mr. Davenport also had long supported a school for the education of poor children. He assigned to the Corporation a security for £200, upon condition that they should pay him 20 marks yearly for his life. He also granted to the Corporation a yearly rent of £13 6s. 8d., out of lands called the Black Orchard, upon trust, to pay a schoolmaster to teach poor children to read and write: £10 per annum, to the city bailiff, for his pains in seeing the said children furnished; 10s. to the mayor and his brethren, for their care; and the residue for books, paper, ink, hose, and shoes, for the poor children. In the year 1714, an information was filed by the Attorney-General, at the relation of Batt and others, for the purpose of rectifying various alleged misapplications of the charities, under the management of the Corporation. Nothing seems to have been paid (1833) for about forty years, to a master, or any other object of this charity, except 10s. given to the mayor and his brethren, which was expended in wine at the dinner of Mr. Thomas Wheatley. The Corporation expressed their willingness (1833) to resume the payment of £10 per annum, to a master upon this foundation; and to pay an arrear of six years, at £12 16s. 8d. per annum (10s. for refreshment having been deducted), amounting to £77, which was appropriated to the National School.

*James Harwell*, by will, 1630, directed his executor, Simon Norton, to pay £20 to the poor of the city of Coventry, and lay out £20 in the purchase of lands, of the yearly value of 20s., for the preaching of three sermons yearly in St. Michael's Church, on St. James's Day, St. Bartholomew's Day, and St. Matthias's Day. *Henry Harwell*, the brother of the testator, added £15 to this gift; and £5 was also allowed for the interest of the £20 given to the poor, to which *Mr. John Clark* made a further addition of £5. By an order, 25th December, 1641, a rent charge of £3 10s. was made out of Prior's Orchard, for these gifts. The Corporation agreed to pay £2 10s. annually in respect of this gift to a baker for bread,

which was to be distributed on St. Thomas's Day; but nothing has been paid for sermons for many years.

*Nicholas Raby*, by will left £150, of which £20 was to buy books for the library of the Free School, and the remainder to be put forth for the maintenance of the poor of the Company of Tailors and Shearmen. It does not appear that this was ever applied.

*Isaac Walden*, by will, 1632, appointed two years after his decease, £140 to be bestowed in the purchase of lands in the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the city of Coventry, for them and their successors, to pay 30s. for the preaching of three sermons yearly. One on All Saints' Day, in the afternoon, one on the 17th November, and the third on New Year's Eve; and to the bell-ringers 12d., and directed that the surplus of rents should be employed in placing out apprentices, the poor children of the hospital of Bablake. It does not appear this money was ever laid out in land. The Corporation agreed to pay £7 annually in respect thereof to the Bablake Boys' Hospital. The sermons are not preached.

*William Burbage*, by will, 1633, gave to the Corporation and their successors, his messuage in West Orchard, in the city of Coventry, that they should yearly pay, within fourteen days before Easter, to three poor widows, one inhabiting in West Orchard, one in Grey Friars'-lane, and one in Much Park-street, 6s. 8d. a piece yearly for ever. We believe these are regularly paid.

*Thomas Brownrigg*, by will, 1634, left his messuage in Smithford street, subject to the payment of 6s. 8d. to a poor widow in Smithford-street, or one in Broadgate ward, on St. Thomas's Day; and also 6s. 8d. for a sermon in St. Michael's Church on the same day, and 4d. yearly to the sexton for ringing the bell. The premises so charged were pulled down in 1812, for widening Broadgate, under the powers of an Act of Parliament. The Corporation agreed to pay the sum of 13s. 8d. for the above purposes.

*Thomas Jesson*, by will, 1634, gave to the Corporation of the city of Coventry, the sum of £2,000 to be paid them within two years after his decease, with which they should buy lands, the yearly rent whereof might be £100, for the following uses:—On St. Thomas's Day yearly to elect six poor boys, sons of freemen, to provide them masters, and to bestow on each £3 to provide them apparel and master, two of which to be of Little Park-street ward. Also, yearly, on St. Thomas's Day, to ten poor freemen, 20s. a piece; also, to give to 20 poor widows, on the same day, 10s. a piece, two of each to be out of the above ward; also 40s. in bread to be given to poor people in St. Michael's Church, in Coventry, on St. Thomas's Day; also £10 8s. for bread every year to the poor by 4s. a week, at St. Michael's; also £5 4s. for bread, by 2s. a week, to the poor, in Trinity Church; also, for a sermon to be preached in St. Michael's Church, every Wednesday morning, £6 a year, or, if not so preached, to be given to 12 poor folks on St. Thomas's Day; also £20 every year, to be lent forth to two



tradesmen, freemen of Coventry, &c. By indenture, November 2, 1638, the sum of £1,890 was paid for an estate situate in Clifford Chambers, in the county of Gloucester; and £79 3s., the residue of the £2,000, was paid to the Corporation. The estate contained 119a. 2r. 7p. of land, let at the yearly rent of £215, the tenant paying land tax, &c. The Wednesday sermons are not preached, and there has been no money lent out on loan. Up to Michaelmas, 1830, Mr. Samuel Carter was the receiver of this charity, and it was found there was a balance in his hands of £598 16s. 1d.; also a sum of £122 10s. for returned property tax received by him; the whole of which was then in progress of liquidation.

*John Duckett*, by will, 1638, gave £50 to be paid to the Corporation, for the use of the son of John and Mary Wood, and directed that if he should die before he attained the age of 21, the said sum should remain to the Corporation, to be disposed of in charitable uses. It was ordered, 1672, that £3 yearly should be allowed, on St. Thomas's Day, for placing forth a boy apprentice; but there appears to have been none so placed out since 1711.

*Richard Wright*, by will, 1640, gave to the Corporation of Coventry, £20 upon trust, that they should yearly dispose of 24 dozen of bread, to the poor people of Bishopgate Ward; £20 was paid to the city, and a distribution was made in 1686, since which nothing appears to have been paid.

*Simon Norton*, by will, 1641, after devising certain tithes to the use of the minister of Bablake Church, as noticed with the grammar school, gave to Sampson Hopkyns, then mayor of the city, and eight others, aldermen of the said city of Coventry, and their heirs, certain property, upon trust, that they should yearly, upon the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, pay out of the rents, to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Michael, in Coventry, £10 for the buying of 200 dozen of wheaten loaves, four dozen every Sunday, before morning prayer, abating eight dozen in the year, &c.; and, on further trust, that they should employ the residue of the rents in providing of waistcoats and smocks for poor widows, and in cloth, for the clothing of poor children, on the same feast day. He also gave to the Corporation 300 marks, upon trust, that they should provide for a couple of almsfolk in the Grey Friars' Hospital, and one man in the Bablake, and one boy in the Bablake Boys' Hospital. This sum was paid to the corporation in 1642. The property devised for bread and clothing was situated in Far Gosford-street. From the rent, £10 was agreed to be paid for bread, and formerly the money was regularly entered for widows' shifts.

*Elizabeth*, Countess Dowager of *Devonshire*, by will, 1642, gave £100 to the poor people of the city of Coventry, and £50 to the poor of the town of Warwick, to be employed for their use. The Corporation received the legacy of £100 in 1646, and covenanted to pay £5 annually, to ten poor householders, on Ash Wednesday, which is paid out of their general fund.

*Sarah Ward*, by will, 1662, gave to the Corporation of Coventry, £100 in trust, to distribute on New Year's Day yearly; £6 as her gift towards the enlargement of poor prisoners, by the consent of Aldermen Robert Bedford, her sole executor. Before this money was paid, Mr. Bedford became bankrupt, and the legacy lost.

*William Drax*, by will, 1669, gave to the poor of the city of Coventry £50, to be disposed of as the chief magistrate should see fit. Mr. Drax had, during his life-time, given £100 to be disposed of by the mayor and aldermen, in apprenticing 26 poor children. To this legacy, the Corporation added £10, and therewith placed out 20 poor boys as apprentices.

*William Jelliff*, by will, 1681, gave to the Corporation of Coventry, a messuage and garden in Spon-street, Coventry, and a close, called the Stripes, in the parish of Foleshill, in the county of the city of Coventry, to the intent that the rent should be disposed of as follows:—Yearly, on the 10th of March, or within six days after, give to two poor housekeepers in Spon-street ward, and two in Bishop-street ward, and one in Gosford-street ward without the gate, 6s. 8d. each, and twelve pence, given in wheaten bread every Sunday, in the Holy Trinity Church, and yearly pay to the vicar of Holy Trinity 10s. for preaching a sermon on Friday after Whitsun-week (being the great fair day), in the church of either Trinity or St. Michael; and on further trust, that they should, on St. Thomas's Day yearly, pay 10s. for wine at their dinner on that day, and the overplus be for repairs. The property in Spon-street was, in 1833, let on lease to Alderman Vale, for £20 per annum. The close, called the Stripes, is let for the annual rent of £8 8s., the whole of which rent is now applied to the object of the testator, each receiving a proportionate increase.

*Humphrey Burton*, by will, 1683, gave to the Corporation of Coventry, £20 to bestow 20s. interest as follows: 8s. yearly for four dozen of bread, to add to his father-in-law, Simon Norton's gift in the Church of St. Michael, and 12s. for bread to be weekly distributed in the parish church of the Holy Trinity, to be added to that of his late uncle, Thomas Jesson. The legacy was paid in 1685, and we believe it is distributed as above.

*James Nailer*, by indenture 1683, gave a rent charge of 10s. to the Corportion, after his decease, from a house in Cook-street, that they should yearly pay to each of two poor widows, one dwelling in Bayley-lane, and the other in or without Gosford gate, in Trinity parish. The Corporation agreed to pay the two widows, on Ash-Wednesday.

*Joseph Chambers*, by will, 1684, gave his lands in Foleshill, then of the value of £7 per annum, to the repairs of St. Michael's Church. These lands, 5a. Or. 39p., with an allotment of 1r. 21p., with a barn and hovel, are let for about £20 per annum, which, we believe, is paid to the churchwardens of St. Michael. And he gave to the said corporation and their successors, a moiety of the capital



messuage, called the George Inn, to dispose of the profits thereof (usually £7 yearly), to the poor of the parish of St. Michael, to be distributed of at May-day and Martinmas, or soon afterwards. The Corporation purchased the other moiety of these premises in 1689, for £41 1s. 6d. It appears this house was rebuilt at considerable expense by the Corporation, one moiety of which they claimed to be re-imbursed, before making any payment on account of this charity. In 1833 they agreed to commence the payment of one moiety of the rent as directed by the donor.

*William Bird*, by will, 1686, gave to trustees and their heirs all his real and personal estate (subject to certain limitations which never took effect), in trust, to pay one moiety of the yearly rents to the mayor and aldermen of the city of Coventry and their successors, to be distributed to the poor inhabitants of the said city, according to their discretion; and the other moiety to the ministers of Oakingham, Finchampstead, and Binfield, for the time being and their successors, for charitable purposes. The property consisted of houses in Milk-street and Wood-street, London. About the year 1750 an information, at the suit of the Attorney-General, was brought in the Court of Chancery against the Corporation, in the course of which the property was sold. A final decree was made 27th July, 1779, when the residue of certain balances was ordered to be invested in Old South Sea Annuities, in the name of the Accountant-General, making the whole amount of stock £1,547 11s. 9d. We believe this sum is now standing in the name of the Corporation of Coventry. A sum of 20s. is given yearly on St. Thomas's-day to each of 46 poor men, selected from the different wards, and 8s. 6d. to one other person.

*Joseph Symcox*, intended to settle a certain sum for the use of the poor, but was prevented by death. By indenture, 1705, this was carried into effect. That a rent-charge of £6 was after the death of Samuel Collins, and Mary his wife, should be paid to the Corporation of Coventry, and their successors, issuing out of the premises called the White Bear, in High-street (now the Craven Arms), to be employed in placing out apprentices, two poor boys of this city, which, we believe, is accordingly done.

*Thomas Crow*, by will, 1707, gave to his brother Robert Crow, certain tenements and lands. and after his decease, they should, except the house given to Myles Flint, remain to the Corporation of the city of Coventry for certain charitable purposes. This property produced an annual rent of £147, from which eight poor widows each received 2s. per week, and an annual distribution of about £88 to the poor of each ward, principally widows, of 10s. each was made. These, with repairs and other expenses at the distribution on St. Thomas's-day, 1832, exhausted the balance on hand.

*Samuel Collins*, clothier, by will, 1716, devised to the Corporation of Coventry and their successors, a yearly rent-charge of £3 clear of taxes, to be issuing out of his lands in Foleshill and Exhall,

in the county of the city of Coventry, payable on St. Thomas's-day, to be employed in putting out a poor boy (the son of a freeman), apprentice; the first boy to be out of Bayley-lane Ward, in St. Michael's parish, the next out of Gosford-street Ward in the same parish, and so alternately.

*Samuel Collins* (nephew of the above), by will, 1721, devised an estate at Fillongley, to apply the rents, after the decease of his wife and the payment of taxes, &c., in putting out four poor boys, the sons of freemen, apprentices for seven years, to be chosen out of the parish of St. Michael. The estate contains 22a. 0r. 18p. of land. He also devised the estates in Foleshill and Exhall, subject to the rent-charge of £3 annually, left by his late uncle, to the Corporation of Coventry, for putting out four apprentices for seven years, sons of freemen, to be chosen out of the city of Coventry. This estate consists of 28a 1r. 21p. of land at Rowley's Green. We believe the apprentices are appointed by members of the council in rotation. This charity was many years negligently managed. Mr. S. Carter, the collector, was found to be indebted to these two estates a total balance of £457 4s. 1d., but a bond had been given to the Corporation for a sum of £1,600 to liquidate this and other balances owing,

*Miles Flint*, by will, 1727, devised from certain property, two annuities of £5 4s. each, to two poor maids or widows in the parish of St. Michael, 2s. each weekly for life. He gave the said premises to John Fairfax and the heirs of his body, with divers remainders ever. These seem to have been paid by the Corporation in 1761; since which, there is no information respecting them.

*Thomas Smith*, by will 1728 gave to the alderman of Smithford-street Ward, 6s. 8d. to be by him given to some poor housekeeper of that ward, on St. Thomas's-day, payable out of his house at the south-east corner of Market-street in that ward, and we believe it is given as directed.

*Donor unknown.* The Corporation bailiff receives a rent-charge of 6s. 8d. per annum payable from a house in Smithford-street, near the King's Head Inn, in 1833, it was the property of William Johnson, the sum is given to a poor widow on Ash Wednesday.

*Mary Radford*, by will, 1749, devised certain premises at or near Jordan Well, to be disposed of, and the produce to be placed out, and the interest to be yearly given on the 21st of December, amongst six poor widows of the parish of the Holy Trinity. This was by indenture, 1759, converted into a rent-charge of 40s. on the premises, which is paid annually at Lady-day, and given to six poor widows of the said parish.

\* \* \* *The preceding Charities are under the management of the Corporation, the following are not:—*

COW LANE CHARITY SCHOOL was founded by *Samuel Baker*, of London, in which, during his life, twelve children were educated and



clothed, under the management of Major Beak and others as trustees. By will, 1695, Mr. Baker devised all his houses and lands in London, &c., to be sold by his executors, Thomas Gooding and William Empson, and after discharging his debts, funeral expenses, and legacies, to pay the residue to his trustees at Coventry, for such further works of charity as they should appoint. By indenture, 1704, stating that the executors under the above will refused to act, proceedings were instituted against them in the Court of Chancery, and Robert Beak, John Thompson, and John Collins, the trustees of the school at Coventry, were ordered to sell the estates, &c., and further reciting that, on the 19th of November, 10th of William III., the said persons, with £850, the residue of the above sale, purchased to them and their heirs, certain messuages and lands, in trust for the maintenance of the said charity, and other works of charity, &c.

*Samuel Billing*, by will, 1708, gave his messuage in Gosford-street, Coventry, and his yard land in Lutterworth, in the county of Leicester, to the trustees of the charity founded by Samuel Baker, and their heirs upon trust, to employ the rents (except what was expended for taxes and repairs) in clothing and educating such poor boys in the said city as should be above the age of 13, and under the age of 16 years, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, to make them be placed out apprentices, and in placing them out apprentices. He also gave to the said trustees his house of Cross Cheaping, held of the Corporation, at £8 per annum by lease, of which 40 years were to come; also all the money due upon a mortgage from Thomas Viner, Esq., being about £300, to be laid out in the purchase of lands and tenements, in the names of the said trustees, and to sell the lease of his house in Cross Cheaping to add to the above money. By indenture, 1713, certain premises were purchased by the trustees for the sum of £535 7s. 6d.

*Thomas Crow*, by will, 1707, directed that all the residue of his personal estate should be laid out in the purchase of lands to be disposed of to charitable uses. In 1708 an estate called the Stone House, with garden, &c., and other lands, containing together 15 acres, in the parish of Berkeswell, was purchased for £230, the above residue, and enfeoffed to Joseph Olds and Miles Flint upon trust, to dispose of the same, to fulfil the will of the said Thomas Crow, by employing the yearly rents in placing one or more, not exceeding four boys of the city of Coventry apprentices at the said city. *Elizabeth Grosvenor* conveyed to the trustees of Billing's charity £100, for which they were bound for the payment of £4 a year for her life, and after her decease to apply the interest to the like charitable purposes. *Thomas Noxon*, by will, 1785, gave £20 to the trustees of Baker's Charity School, which was received in 1789. *William Edwards*, by will, 1789, gave £300 to the trustees of the Charity School of Cow-lane, founded by Samuel Baker and Samuel Billing, for the use thereof. The rental of Baker's

Charity is about £131, besides which there is £578 3s. three per cent. consols, yielding a dividend of £17 6s. 2d., and £203 4s. 1d., Old South Sea Annuities, yielding a dividend of £6 2s., purchased with William Edward's gift, making a total income of £154 8s. 2d. The rents derived from Billing's estates are £180, besides which there is a sum of £677 16s. 9d. three per cent. consols, yielding a dividend of £20 6s. 8d. per annum, and a sum of £461 17s. 8d., Old South Sea Annuities yielding a dividend of £13 17s. 2d., making a total income of £214 3s. 10d. Crow's charity premises are let for the yearly rent of £28 ; also a sum of £113 19s. 10d. three per cent. consols, purchased from a sale of timber, yielding a dividend of £3 9s. per annum, making a total income of £31 9s., making a grand total of £400 1s. The average expenses for the last six years (1833) has exceeded £30 a year on these three charities. The schoolmaster resides in the schoolhouse, the trustees paying the assessed and parochial rates. For this salary the master takes 50 boys from Coventry and the immediate neighbourhood ; they are not admitted before 10 or 11 years of age ; each remains three years, so that every year about seventeen are received. They are appointed in May yearly, each of the seven trustees naming two. They are children of poor people, not of any particular sect ; they are, however, expected to attend the Unitarian meeting on Sunday. They are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, history, geography, &c. Each boy receives annually a suit of clothing and two pair of shoes, with a cap and stockings. All who stay three years and can find masters are bound out apprentice, with a premium of £3, a complete suit of clothes, different from the school clothing. The average annual amount of the premiums with apprentices is about £50, and the cost of clothing about £120, and of stationery, including about £20, which includes the price of a Bible given to each on being bound apprentice. The boys also, on receiving their clothing have 6d. each for a dinner, under Baker's will, with a few other outgoings. A new boarded floor was put down in the schoolroom in 1872, at a cost of about £70. The school is inspected by the Government Inspector at the invitation of the trustees.

*John Thompson*, by will, 6 Anne, directed his nephew to pay, within twelve months after his decease, £5 to the trustees of Mr. Baker's charity. He also gave, after the death of his wife, £15 to be paid by Mary Clarke, to the same trustees, towards keeping one boy in the school. In 1727, these sums were applied towards liquidating a debt on the school.

*John Collins*, who died in 1727, gave by will £10 to the trustees of Mr. Baker's charity, to be added to the £15 left by Mr. Thompson. This, with one year's interest, was paid in 1729, and applied in defraying the current expenses.

*Bridget Southern*, by will, 1731, gave to John Gulson and three others, £10, to be by them applied for the benefit of the poor of the



people called Quakers, in the city of Coventry. She also gave all her messuages and real estates, and residue of her money and personal estate, to the said trustees, and their heirs, &c., to sell the same, and invest the money in a purchase of lands and tenements, for the education of poor children of the people called Quakers, or others, being inhabitants of the city of Coventry, in learning to read and write, and for clothing them with outward garments of a brown-coloured stuff, and see that the poor girls amongst the Quakers should be first provided for, and then as many other poor girls of the city as might be. *Frances Craner*, by will, 1729, left a rent charge of £3 from her house in Bishop-street, to be secured to the trustees of Bridget Southern's charity. The trustees now possess property producing £90 per annum. In 1812, the charity being considerably in debt, £90 was contributed by the Society of Friends in Warwick and Coventry, and *Mr. Joseph Freeth*, a trustee, left a legacy of £50. The schoolmistress educates 30 girls. They are taught reading, writing, knitting, sewing, &c., and the mistress is allowed to take in work, of which she has the profit. The children are admitted at eight years of age, and remain about three years. They make their own clothes and knit their own stockings. The clothing, which they receive once a year, costs £20, and £5 is allowed for coals, which, with land-tax and insurance, about £3 12s., makes a total expenditure of about £53 12s. The trustees are all of the Society of Friends, but there are no girls in Coventry, belonging to that society, of a class to require gratuitous instruction.

*Katherine Bayley*, by will, 1723, gave to the poor of the parish of St. Michael £10, and to the poor of Trinity parish £5, both to be distributed in bread. She also gave the sum of £600, and all the residue of her estate, after all payments, &c., unto her executors and trustees, in trust, to be by them laid out and applied for the educating children in reading, writing, and casting accounts, &c. *Francis Blythe*, one of the trustees named in the will, established the school in Coventry, in 1733, and in 1735 appointed four co-trustees for its management. The property then consisted of certain tenements in Coventry, let at £24 per annum. There was also a sum of £340 personal estate. In 1742, a collection was first made at St. Michael's Church, after a sermon preached for that purpose, which practice has since been regularly continued every year. From time to time, various legacies and donations have been given in augmentation of this charity. The property now comprises a substantial school of brick, master's house, and garden, on the east side of Little Park-street. The income of the property from rent, and dividends on stock, amounts annually to £173 10s., and the average amount received from the sermon is about £100 per annum. In the school at present (1873), 54 boys are educated, having been increased as the funds could afford. They are appointed by the trustees, and admitted at eleven years of age,

and remain three years, during which time they receive a suit of clothes annually, and are instructed in reading, writing, and accounts, books and all school requisites being found them. At fourteen they are bound apprentice, with a premium of £2, and each boy then receives a Bible and Prayer Book. The present master was appointed in 1856, at a salary of £60 a year, and occupies his house free of rates and taxes, making a total expenditure of about £300. The affairs of the school are managed by ten trustees, and on the day of the annual sermon, the acting trustee gives a dinner to the clergyman and his co-trustees.

FAIRFAX'S SCHOOL originated in a donation of £100, by Samuel Fairfax, in 1751, which was subsequently increased, by collections after charity sermons, which in St. Michael's Church averages annually about 100 guineas. In 1761, Rev. Mr. Fairfax gave £100; in 1766, Mr. Samuel Garratt, £200; in 1778, Mrs. Hannah Crynes, £200; in 1790, Mr. William Edwards, £300; in 1793, Edward Atkins, Esq., £500 in the Three per Cents.; in 1828, Sir Skears Rew, Knight, £100, with many intermediate smaller benefactions, which have been invested partly on mortgage and in the public funds. In 1853, R. S. Cox, Esq., left £1,000 in aid of the funds of this charity. In 1814, a house on the north side of Sponstreet, was purchased for a residence for the master, at a cost, including a garden, of £489 8s., and a new school-room erected in the yard, at the expense of about £370. The garden did not join the house, and has since been sold for £100. The income of the charity is about £200 per annum. The school contains 40 boys, the number having been increased with the increase of the funds; the boys are selected by the trustees, from the poor of Coventry, and are admitted at 10 years old, and remain three years in the school. They are gratuitously instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic, books and all school requisites being furnished by the trustees. Each boy receives a suit of clothes every year, and, when bound apprentice, is supplied with a suit of clothes, and a Bible and Prayer Book. About 14 boys are placed out annually. The master receives a salary of £40 a year, and occupies the house free of rates and taxes. The expenditure nearly equals the income. The trustees, eight in number, hold their annual meeting in Passion week, and fill vacancies in the school.

BLUE COAT CHARITY SCHOOL, for girls, was established about the commencement of the last century, by voluntary subscriptions. Its funds have, from time to time, been augmented by the gifts and bequests of various persons; among whom are, *William Edwards*, noticed before, £300; *Elizabeth Eglington*, £100; *Rev. John Jaques*, £50; *Sir Skears Rew*, £100; with many others, amounting in the whole to £1,500, which, at various times was, by the trustees, converted into real property. Besides which, they have £750, advanced by the trustees to the churchwardens of the Holy Trinity, Coventry, at various times, for which, an annual interest



of £37 10s. is paid out of the church rates ; £432 8s. stock in the Three-and-a-half per Cents., producing an annual dividend of £15 0s. 8d. ; also, the trustees receive, as Godfrey's gift, from the churchwardens of Trinity parish, 10s. as the interest of £10. R. S. Cox, Esq., in 1853, bequeathed £1,500 to this charity, the whole amounting to a permanent income of about £200, which is aided by an annual sermon and collection at Holy Trinity Church, the average amount of which is £100. The mistress and matron each receive a salary, with board, washing, and apartments, and reside in the house. Thirty girls are taught and clothed. They are admitted at ten years of age, and stay from three to five years ; they are instructed in the usual branches of education. Work is taken into the school for their employment. All the girls are clothed once a year in the uniform of Queen Anne, previous to the day on which the sermon is preached. The 8 oldest girls are taken into the mistress's house, for their last year, to fit them for household servants. This charity is well conducted, without any expense. Seven of the vestry, with the vicar, act as trustees ; one of the vestry goes out every year. The school premises are situated in Priory Row. The old building having shown signs of decay, was taken down, and the present picturesque edifice erected on its site in 1857.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—In the year 1813, a society was established with a view of forming a central school. It met with liberal encouragement, and shortly some premises in Little Park street were purchased. These, afterwards found too small, were sold for £191 1s. 11d., and a new site purchased, upon which was erected the school of St. Michael's, in Union street ; and by the powers of the deed for the erection, dated 10th of March, 1826, the premises were mortgaged to Sir Skears Rew, Knight, for £600 at 5 per cent. interest, which sum, we believe, has been paid off. A sum of £50 has been paid to this school, as the arrears of Brooke's charity ; for which, Bibles to the amount of 50s. a year, were distributed by the trustees among the children of the school. Also, the Corporation agreed to pay six years' arrears of the sum of £12 16s. 8d. due to them in respect of Christopher Davenport's gift, for a school-master, and other objects, to be employed in the reduction of the debt of this school. This school is now used as a branch school for St. Michael's parish, the parish National Schools being in Much Park street

*Elizabeth Swillington*, about the year 1548, paid into the hands of Henry Overy, of Coventry, a sum of seven score pounds, to the intent to purchase land ; and that with the yearly rents, the highways near to the city of Coventry, particularly those leading to Stivichall and Warwick, should be yearly repaired ; and that, with the surplus of the said rents, the poor of the said city should be relieved. The average cost of repairing the roads is about £70 per

annum ; after which, the trustees distribute the surplus amongst the poor of the city of Coventry.

*John Bohun, Esq.*, by will 1685, gave £100 to be distributed amongst poor people, of such as his brother George Bohun should think fit, and appointed him as his executor. *George Bohun* died before he had paid the money ; and by his will, 1705, charged his estates with the payment of the said £100, also bequeathed to the poor of the parishes of Coventry, Keresley, Cowndon, and Newland, £50, to be paid as his executors thought fit, and appointed George Guy and six others executors. An information was filed in the Court of Chancery by the Attorney-General, against George Guy and others, the executors, for the payment of the said £150 and the interest due. The cause was heard 13th May, 1718, and it was referred to one of the Masters of the court, to compute what was due for the said legacies, with interest, &c. The Master, by his report 11th Feb., 1733, certified that there was then due for principal and interest the sum of £386 11s. 3d., and appointed James Birch and eleven others to be trustees ; and it was afterwards ordered that the money should be laid out in the purchase of South Sea Annuities until a purchase of land could be obtained, and that the said trustees should pay one-third part of the dividends to the poor of St. Michael's and Trinity, and the other two-thirds to the poor of the districts of Coundon, Keresley, and Newland. £346 6s. 1d. South Sea Annuities was purchased ; and in 1756 new trustees were appointed, and £27 12s. was paid for the cost of the suit out of the interest. The interest, about £10 7s. 8d. per annum, is received by the trustees, of which, we believe, one-third is distributed to the poor of the city of Coventry, and the remaining two-thirds divided betwixt the three other places.

*John Brooke*, by will 1679, gave his messuage in Earle-street, Coventry, after the death of his mother, to his sister Anne for life, with various limitations ; then to the mayor and aldermen of the city of Coventry. By indenture, 1719, the said Anne Brooke, for barring all estates, tail, &c., released to Featherstone Paston and his heirs the said messuage and garden, that a recovery might be suffered thereof to ensure to the said Anne Brooke for her life, and after her decease to the use of the said Thomas Rigby and his heirs, provided that he and his heirs should yearly expend £6 in buying Bibles, to be bestowed on the 14th of April amongst poor children of the city of Coventry. The recovery was accordingly suffered, and the Bibles were distributed regularly till about 1799. Afterwards Alderman Williamson purchased the premises, but did not resume the distribution of Bibles. Mr. Joseph Williamson, the son and devisee, was a minor when he succeeded to the property, and he had never heard of the charge, and on an examination of his deeds in 1833, expressed his regret at the omission, and undertook to pay £50 for the arrears which had accrued since he obtained his majority, and to distribute Bibles, properly lettered, as Brooke's



charity, to the value of £6 annually. It was suggested that the £50 should be paid to the treasurer of the National School towards liquidating the debt, which was acceded to.

*Elizabeth Muston*, spinster, by will 1718, gave all her property to her mother during her life; and, after her decease, she gave 20s. yearly, to be paid out of her house in Gosford-street to the minister of the society to which she belonged, so long as the meeting should be kept up; and all overplus rents, besides repairs, she gave to some poor widow or maid belonging to the society, to be paid weekly by 2s., to be of the age of 50 or upwards, and to be continued for the term of her natural life. The distribution commenced about 1740, the 20s. having been some years previous on the death of Mrs. Mouston. The premises were let on a term of 42 years from Michaelmas, 1804, at £9, on account of money expended in improvements. The premises are considered to be now worth an annual rent of about £20.

*James Smith*, by will, 1724, gave, after the death of Katherine, his wife, in case of failure of the issue of the marriage, &c., after paying various legacies and life annuities, and £500, part of his wife's marriage settlement, which by the articles was to return all the rest to the charitable uses specified in his will, and his will was, that as the said annuities should fall in the money should be put out at interest until the yearly profits, besides the outgoings, should amount to £50 per annum, which he then appointed to be distributed to 10 poor house-keepers, having one or more child or children, 8s. 4d. per month for one year, to be paid on the first day of each calendar month. After two years expired from the time, the same housekeeper, if still qualified, should be capable of having the same again; but none to have it above one year together, except in extraordinary cases, all the trustees agreeing thereto; and in no year more than three of the said housekeepers should have it again. And when the excess of the yearly income, above £50, should be sufficient to pay for 20 tons of coal, he appointed that such coals should be bought and distributed equally to 20 poor families, inhabitants of Coventry, between the 1st of November and 2nd of February, in every year. Further when all his estate that was out on annuity should come in, he appointed that 20 Bibles, of not more than 4s. or less than 3s. 6d. price for each, should be given yearly, on the 25th or 26th of March, to 16 young men or young women in the city of Coventry, who could read, and were of the age of 16 or upwards, and to four such like young men or women of the parish of Bedworth. Also, that on the same day every year £40 should be given to 20 poor families, in the said 40s. to each family, provided that where single persons should appear to his trustees to be great objects of charity, such persons, not exceeding ten in any year, should be capable of having the said gift; and appointed 11 trustees for the management of the said charities. He also appointed the sum of £3 to be spent in col-

lations for the trustees, and £5 per annum for entering and keeping the accounts of the trust, each trustee to act in turn; and desired that a strong box, with three locks, should be provided for holding the accounts, &c., the keys to be kept by the accountant the preceding, and the following one; in case of a deficiency of his estate to answer all purposes, the loss shall fall on such charities as the trustees should think proper. In case of increase, it should go in augmentation of such as they should think fit; and whatever money there was to spare beyond his said specific charities should be invested in the purchase of lands, so that the fund for the same might be in yearly rents as soon as possible after his wife's death. The testator died 17th of May, 1730, without issue; after which an information being filed in the Court of Chancery, the charity was established by a decree, 18th of January, 1758. By the Master's report, 1st of May, 1760, it was certified that £2,828 15s. 1d. had been paid into court, and that the real estates consisted of freehold messuages, in the city of Coventry, of the yearly rent of £43 1s.; and the costs of all parties amounted to £143 1s. 10d.; new trustees were appointed. James Boydall, by will, 1768, gave the sum of £200, to be placed out on Government security, to be placed out by the trustees of Samuel Smith's charity, of which he was one, to be applied by them in augmenting the said charities, &c. The property of the charity now consists of the freehold houses in High-street and Hay-lane, in the city of Coventry, old timbered buildings, which we believe are let for about £65 per annum; a messuage, garden, and back premises, in Little Park-street, which we believe is let for £20 a year, in good repair. The sum of £3,439 17s. 2d., Old South Sea Annuities, standing in the name of the Attorney-General, producing an annual dividend of about £103 4s.; of the original sum paid into court £833 6s. 8d. had been set as a fund for the payment of £25 a year for the life of the widow of the testator. On her death, in April, 1784, by an order the June following, the above-named sum was carried over to the said charity.

*John Moore*, of Coventry, by will, 1729, devised certain estates for charitable purposes, to be employed by his trustees for the use of poor people of Coventry, and directed there should always be five trustees. The property is partly situated in the city of Coventry, partly in Keresley, and in the parish of Foleshill, in the county of the said city, and partly in the parish of Nuneaton, in the county of Warwick. We believe the income is thus disposed of:—The sum of £40 is given to forty of the poorest tenants, 20s. each from each of their rents. A sum, averaging £190 per annum, is given away in money and coals, at Christmas; to each of the trustees a proportion of the fund is allotted for distribution.

THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL.—*The Church Estate*.—From a period antecedent to the year 1564, the churchwardens of St. Michael have been in possession of premises in Far Gosford-street, and Little Park-street, of which the rents have always been applied



to the purposes of the church-rate. The former premises were let on a lease of 30 years to Serjeant Bushell, from 1804; he covenanted to erect three new brick messuages within three years, at the yearly rent of £16 5s., but in 1833 they were worth £30 a year. The premises in Little Park-street are called Witherley House, now divided into three tenements. *Samuel Collins*, by will, 1721, gave to the churchwardens of St. Michael the sum of £800, to be paid by his executor within two years after his decease, upon trust, to purchase lands within ten miles of the city of Coventry, and employ the rents and profits towards the repairs of the church of St. Michael, as occasion should require. By indenture. 1752, a farm house and out-buildings, with 68a. 1r. 24p. of land, of which a small portion is tithe free, is in Exhall. The sum of £20 is also paid from the charity of Joseph Chambers as before noticed, with various other small gifts to the church. There are also two small tenements held at will, under the Bishop of Lichfield, put in repair by the churchwardens, and occupied by their tenants. The whole of the above income is carried to the general account of the church-rate. This is aided from rents raised from pews, to the amount of £150 per annum. Yet the ancient and magnificent church of St. Michael constantly exhausts these resources and renders a rate necessary.

**GUILD PAYMENTS.**—The sum of £6 is annually paid to the vicar by the Corporation of the Guild and Chantry lands, which they purchased of King Edward VI.; and towards the purchase the Corporation received from the churchwardens the sum of 100, the Corporation covenanting to pay to them the annual sum of £6, by equal portions, at Lady-day and Michaelmas.

*Henry Boteler*, during his lifetime, settled lands at Kenwaldsey on trustees, for keeping an obit, &c., and for preaching three sermons on Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday yearly, by three clerks, to be chosen by the mayor, each clerk to have 6s. 8d., in which sermon he was to be prayed for by name. By indenture, 1492, Isabel, widow of Henry Boteler, conveyed these estates to the Corporation. The payment is included in the sum of £2 paid to the vicar of St. Michael's for preaching three sermons at Easter, by the Corporation, who still hold a farm at Kenwaldsey.

*John Tallans*, by will, 1563, gave to the churchwardens of Trinity Church in Coventry, his house in Foleshill, so that they should procure three sermons yearly—two at Trinity Church and one at St. Michael's, and the preachers to have 6s. 8d. each sermon. The house has been pulled down some years; it was situate near Little Heath. Nothing appears to have been paid since 1818. Mr. Butlin's agent agreed to pay the £15 due to the vicars. As directed in this parish the sermon is preached on the first of January.

*William Hopkyns*, by will, 1569, left 20s. for three sermons;

and *William Wheate*, in 1615, left 20s. for three sermons ; both these are noticed before.

*Samson Hopkins*, in 1623 left 20s. for three sermons, on the 1st and 6th of January, and 5th of November, to be paid by the Drapers' Company to the Vicar of St. Michael.

— *Rogerson* left 20s. for three sermons at St. Michael's, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of December yearly ; this is paid by the Drapers' Company.

*Sir Brian J Anson*, by indenture, 1628, in compliance with the godly intent of *Henry Breeres*, his late father-in-law, secured a yearly rent of 21s., to be issuing out of certain closes at Spon-end, for finding three sermons yearly in the city of Coventry, of which 1s. was to go to the bell-ringer.

*Mary Heath*, in 1741, gave £10, the interest to be paid to the vicar for administering the holy sacrament on Good Friday annually. *Mrs. Anne Allison* gave £10 to pay the vicar 10s. for preaching a sermon on the same day. These sums were paid to the trustees of the church estate, and £1 annually is paid to the vicar.

*Thomas Jesson*, *James Harewell*, *Thomas Brownrigg*, and *Isaac Walden's* gifts are already noticed, with others, for bread.

*John Skeers*, by indenture, 1753, conveyed certain premises to trustees in trust, to permit the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Michael to receive the rents thereof ; and after payment of the repairs and other outgoings, to retain 10s. every year for their trouble, and to distribute yearly 52s. in bread to the poor inhabitants of the said parish, 12d. every Sunday morning, and the residue of the yearly rents to lay out in bread, to be distributed on the 1st day of January after morning service.

*William Edwards*, by will, 1789, gave to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of the parish of St. Michael, £300 upon trust, to place the same at interest, and apply the produce in providing bread in sixpenny loaves, to be distributed every Sunday morning to the poor. He also gave to the said churchwardens £100, the interest to be applied, £2 10s. for ringing the six and nine o'clock bells, and the residue to the sexton, and the rest of the ringers equally, on New Year's-day, old style, and after the receipt, to ring a peal in remembrance of the donor. The two sums were, 3rd September, 1833, invested in the purchase of £453 5s. 2d., three per cent. consols in the name of John Ralphs and three others, producing an annual dividend of £13 12s., and is divided according to the donor's will.

*Elizabeth Eylington*, by will, 1822, gave to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Michael £290 for a distribution of bread, in sixpenny loaves, on Candlemas-day, and a distribution weekly at the church. This legacy was invested in the purchase of £305 14s. 10d. new three-and-a-half per cents. The dividend is received by the churchwardens, and a distribution of bread is made weekly, and a



small allowance made to the sexton for his trouble in distributing the bread.

*Ann Yardley*, by will, 1826, gave £100 new four per cent. annuities to the Rector, or Minister, and Churchwardens of St. Michael, in Coventry, upon trust, to employ the dividends in the purchase of bread, to be distributed by them on St. Thomas's-day; also a similar bequest to the parishes of Holy Trinity and St. John.

*John Downes*, by will, 1708, devised an annual rent-charge of 20s. per annum, to be issuing out of the Red Lion, in Grey Friars-lane, for buying 20 dozen of bread, to be distributed by the churchwardens and overseers of St. Michael's, on the 30th January, yearly, among the poor, equally among the poor of Spon-street, and Broad-gate Wards.

*Richard Lea*, by will, 1668, gave, after the death of two persons, a small rent-charge, &c., which, in 1786, appears to have produced 6s. 8d. per annum, of which nothing is now known.

*Elizabeth Wright*, by will, 1714, gave to the trustees, on trust, to permit (after the death of two persons), a meadow, called Taylor's Meadow, in West Bromwich, with a barn thereon, the Vicars of St. Michael and Holy Trinity, in Coventry, to let the same, and to apply the rents to six poor women of St. Michael, and six poor women of Holy Trinity, frequenting the church, 15s. a piece to a buy a warm petticoat of linsey and a pair of shoes for each. The property is situated in the parishes of Harborn, West-Bromwich, and Handsworth, and including some small allotments, and a purchase of 2r. 30p. for £70, under the West-Bromwich Inclosure Act, in 1801, contains 10a. 0r. 25p. It was agreed that the Vicar of St. Michael should receive the whole rent, and pay one half to the Vicar of Holy Trinity; six poor women to be provided with about 14 yards each of stuff for gowns and petticoats, with a pair of shoes; the residue to be given by the vicar in private charity.

*Samuel Edwards*, by will, 1729, gave to Lawrence Wright, and six others, all the residue of his estate, and also his house in Smithford-street, upon trust, to distribute the income thereof, yearly, on the 18th of November, to honest poor people, in Smithford-street ward, having a special regard to widowers and widows, and might spend one guinea at the time of such distribution. The premises form part of the Fleur-de-Lis public house, and are let for about £20.

*Thomas Rigby* in 1777, bequeathed £100, the interest to be applied in purchasing Bibles, to be distributed by the churchwardens. This sum was received by the trustees of the church estate, and £5 a year has been regularly expended and distributed in Bibles.

*Thomas Burgh, M.D.*, in 1772, gave £100, to be invested in the hands of the trustees of the church estate, and the interest to be received by the vicar for his own use until a vicarage house should

be perpetually annexed to the church, and then the interest to be applied towards the repairs of the said house.

*Richard Burgh*, by will, 1803, bequeathed £1,000 to trustees, for and towards new pewing the parish church of St. Michael, agreeable to the majority of a vestry of the parish; and until so applied to remain at interest. The legacy was received about 1817, and £100 deducted for legacy duty. In 1849, the work was carried into effect, a considerable amount of interest having accumulated.

**HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHURCH LANDS.**—This parish is in possession of considerable property for the use and reparation of the church, which has been acquired at various times, of which the total rental and produce of stock was (1833) £850 12s. 8d., to which is added the income derived from pews in the church, £64 14s. 0d. The income of the charity estates now amounts (1873) to about £1,100 per annum. This fund supplied the ordinary purposes of a church rate, prior to 1826, when, from the dilapidated state of the church, a rate was levied on the parish; and in the three following years, and in 1831, the feoffees were obliged to borrow a considerable sum. The total payments, in 1833, amounted to £493 3s. 10d. *Sermons.*—The sum of £3 11s. 6d. is paid by the churchwardens to the vicar for three sermons in Whitsun week, from Henry Boteler's charity, 7th of Henry VII. One from £10 left by Samuel Frankland, in 1691, for a sermon, yearly, on the 5th of November; and Mary Pollard, in 1817, paid to the accountants churchwardens £30, to pay annually to the vicar a guinea for preaching a sermon on Good Friday, and 10s. 6d. for a sermon on Ascension Day. Also, the Corporation pay to the vicar £3 17s. 8d. for sermons, noticed before. *Bread Charities.*—£13 9s. 0d. is annually paid by the Corporation from charities already mentioned.

*William Thompson*, by will, 1574, gave to trustees, and their heirs, a tenement, with a garden and orchard thereto, situate at Counden-in-Urchenfield, near the city of Coventry, on trust, to permit the churchwardens of Trinity Church to receive the rents and distribute them; 9s. thereof to poor people, by 4d. each, and 1s. to them for their pains, and the rest to be applied in repairs to the house. This estate forms part of the church property; 10s. is given away in groats.

*Elizabeth Hurt*, by will, 1578, bequeathed a rent charge of 20s. yearly, to be issuing out of her house, in Broadgate-street, in the city of Coventry, for the providing of wood and coal.

*Jane Piggin*, by will, 1612, gave £13 6s. 8d. to the Corporation of Coventry to the intent that they should pay to the vicar and churchwardens of the parish of the Holy Trinity, to be distributed, 20s. yearly, to the poor of the said parish. It is given in groats, to 60 poor widows, at Christmas.



*Thomas Godfrey* gave 10s. for the clothing of some poor boy, on the 29th of September, yearly. This has for many years been applied to the Blue Coat School.

*Winifred Younge*, by will, gave £50, which was paid into the Council House, in Coventry, in 1706, there to remain, on trust, to pay the churchwardens and overseers of Holy Trinity parish, yearly, 50s., to be distributed equally between twelve poor widows, living in West Orchard-street, in the said parish.

*James, Lord Viscount Lifford*, by will, 1785, gave to the minister and churchwardens of Trinity parish, and their successors, the annual rent of £5, payable out of premises in Fillongley, in trust, to apply the same in repairing the family vault, &c.; and the residue to be disposed of amongst the poor of Cross Cheaping ward, in the said parish. The £5 is annually received from Lord Lifford, and disposed of accordingly.

*Rev. John Rogers*, by will, 1735, gave to the parish of the Holy Trinity, in the city of Coventry, £14 towards the support of a workhouse, to be paid out of the Manchester Park estate. This annuity, deducting £1 6s. 8d. for land tax, is paid by the owner of the estate to the churchwardens of this parish, and paid to the directors of the poor of the united parishes of St. Michael and Holy Trinity.

WEST ORCHARD ALMSHOUSES consisted of a building of eight rooms, two above and two below, on either side of an entry, occupied by poor persons, placed therein by the accountant churchwarden, with the sanction of the vicar. By an indenture, 1638, John Clarke purchased these premises, part of the ancient guilds and chantries, in consideration of £8, paid to the Corporation. Several other benefactions are previously noticed as paid by the Corporation. These houses were removed some years ago, in consequence of their dilapidated condition.

ST. JOHN'S PARISH.—See Downes' Gift.—10s. worth of bread is distributed to the poor in Spon-street ward, yearly, on the 30th of January.

COLLINS' CHARITY.—Cloth for 12 or 14 gowns is sent from St. Michael's, made up by the parish, and distributed to poor persons.

*Joseph Vernon*, by will, 1742, bequeathed three guineas yearly to the lecturer of St. John's Church, for reading evening prayers, and one guinea for preaching a sermon yearly, on Good Friday. These payments have been discontinued for the last 50 years.

*Nathaniel Crynes*, by will, 1745, gave to his sister, Hannah Crynes, £150, on condition that she secured it so that after her death the curate who should read prayers at six o'clock every evening, at St. John's Church, in Coventry, should receive the interest of it. *Hannah Crynes*, by her will, 1774, also left £150 to her trustees, on trust, to invest the same in the funds, and pay the dividends to the under schoolmaster of the free school for reading prayers every day in the parish church of St. John. These

sums were invested in the Three per Cent. Consols, and produce a dividend of £14 9s. 8d., standing in the names of the trustees of Fairfax's School, who pay the dividends to the under master, but no evening or daily prayers are now read in the church.

*Ann Yardley*, by will, 1826, gave £100, new Four per Cent. Annuities, to the rector and churchwardens of St. John's parish, on trust, to apply the dividends in the purchase of bread for the poor on St. Thomas's Day. The sum of £5 5s., as three half-yearly dividends (the stock, in 1832, having been reduced to three and a half per cent.), which was distributed on St. Thomas's Day, 1833, and a tablet set up in the Church.

**MURDOCK'S GIFT.**—The Drapers' Company pay 6s. 8d. to this parish, for a sermon.

*William Wheate.* The Mercers' Company have the management of this. For these see St. Michael.

The accounts of the foregoing Charities, with those which are given with Warwick and other places in the county, have been abridged from the reports of the Charity Commissioners, to which we have made such alterations as have appeared necessary from the information we have been able to ascertain relative thereto. In cases where certain gifts have become obsolete or extinct, a record of their existence is at all times desirable, and an evidence of the good deeds of past generations.

## PROVIDENT INSTITUTIONS.

Coventry is well provided with societies of this character, having for their object the making a provision for sickness and death, and the profitable investment of savings. The Self-supporting Dispensary is one of this class, an account of which will be found on page 337.

There are several good BUILDING SOCIETIES, whose operations have been conducted with considerable success, and have contributed largely to the extension of house accommodation in the city and suburbs. The CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT has also been fairly tried with varied results.

The FRIENDLY INSTITUTIONS are numerous, and largely patronised by the class for whose benefit they are designed. Of these,

The MANCHESTER UNITY OF ODD FELLOWS is the most influential. The Coventry District in connexion with this order embraces eight lodges in the city and neighbourhood, and comprises 1277 members. Mr. W. G. Fretton is corresponding secretary of the district, to which is attached several auxiliary features.



THE LONDON ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS has seven lodges in this district besides a district lodge and Burial Institution. Mr. William Hill, district secretary.

THE NOTTINGHAM ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS embraces 19 lodges, together with a District Chapter. Mr. John Baker is district secretary.

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS numbers four lodges in this city, and forms part of the Warwickshire District.

There are also several lodges of DRUIDS, and one of the GRAND UNITED ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS.

Besides these previously named, which are all connected with the larger affiliated orders whose names they bear, are a number of independent benefit institutions, the largest of which is the FRIENDLY PROVIDENT INSTITUTION, whose meetings are held at the Dispensary. Mr. J. Shortley is secretary. Others are held at various chapels, schools, public houses, and in private rooms. The aggregate number of members in the whole of these societies is indicative of the fact that the industrial population of Coventry estimates very highly the opportunities and advantages they offer.

In addition to these societies which make provision for sickness and death, there are two local institutions which pay a burial donation only, the oldest and largest of these is the BENEVOLENT BURIAL SOCIETY, established in 1839; the meetings are held in the Catholic schoolroom. The number of members on the books in Jan. 1874 was 13,068, with a capital of £7,035 3s. 4½d. Mr. J. Hegan is secretary. The other society, known as the CHURCH GENERAL BURIAL SOCIETY was founded in 1844, numbers 8,558 members, with a stock of £3,411 15s. 4½d. Its meetings are held in the Grey Friars' lane Mission Room. Mr. E. D. Friswell is secretary.

There are agencies in the city for most of the larger Life and Fire Assurance Companies, London and Provincial, in connexion with which a large amount of business is annually transacted. The names of the offices and agents will be found in the Directory.

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# Geology of Warwickshire.

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## GENERAL FEATURES.

The physical features of Warwickshire are in great part those due to its geological structure. Indeed, where not obscured by drift deposits they afford considerable assistance in mapping the outcrop of the various formations.

*The Lower Carboniferous District.*—In the northern part of the county this group is distinctly marked out, forming a bold ridge which stretches in a north-westerly direction to near Baddesley. In the middle of this district, to the south of Atherstone, the country attains an elevation of over 500 feet above the sea.

*The Permian District.*—The country occupied by this broad spread of rocks, directly to the south of the Carboniferous area, is characterised by an undulating surface, frequently presenting bold hills, and rising to the culminating point in the county at Corley Moor, with an elevation of 625 feet above the sea. From this point descend streams, which, flowing north and south, ultimately find their way in the one case into the German Ocean, and the other into the Bristol Channel.

*The Triassic District*—is in those parts occupied by the harder beds, very similar to the Permian area; but owing to the greater development of the *Keuper Marls*, the general appearance is that of a gently undulating plain.

*The Lias District.*—The outcrop of these beds, where not obscured by drift, can be very clearly traced; the layers of hard light-coloured limestone found at the base of this formation standing out from the soft keuper marls as a well defined escarpment. It is only in portions of its range in this county however that it can be so traced, as throughout the greater part of the northern division it is thickly covered with drift.

*The Inferior Oolite Deposit.*—In the south-eastern corner of the

county, on the Burton Dassett hills, near Kineton, a small unimportant patch of this formation exists; it attains a thickness of about 30 feet, and rests directly on the upper lias clay. As it presents no marked features in the physical contour of the country, it will not be necessary to notice it in greater detail.

The formations entering into the geology of the county are in descending order as follows:—

#### GENERAL LIST OF THE ROCKS OF WARWICKSHIRE.

			DRIFT.		
MESOZOIC.	{		LIAS	{ Upper Lias Marlstone Lower Lias	
		{	TRIAS.	<i>Rhætic or Penarth Beds.</i>	
				<i>Keuper.</i>	{ Red Marls and Sandstones (Upper and Lower.) Lower Sandstones or Waterstones
				<i>Bunter.</i>	{ Upper red & mottled sandstone Pebble beds.
PALÆOZOIC.	{	PERMIAN.	Lower Sandstones and Marls or Rothliegende.		
		CARBONIFEROUS.	{ <i>Coal Measures.</i> <i>Millstone Grit.</i>		
		IGNEOUS ROCKS.	Greenstone or Trap.		

We shall now proceed to consider the various formations, commencing with that lowest in the geological scale.

### I.—CARBONIFEROUS SYSTEM.

#### I.—THE MILLSTONE GRIT.

This formation, the lowest of the Carboniferous series in Warwickshire, consists of a mass of highly metamorphosed quartz rock, and forms the ridge of high ground between Nuneaton and Harts-hill. It occupies a tract of country about two miles and a half in length by nearly half a mile in width, and has a thickness at the surface of about 1,300 feet. The beds dip to the south-west at an angle of  $40^{\circ}$ , and are covered along their entire west and south-west extension by the Coal Measures, which lie perfectly conformably upon them. To the north-east they are cut off by the boundary fault of the Warwickshire coal-field, which throws down the Trias rocks against the Carboniferous, and renders it impossible to ascertain whether the entire thickness of the Millstone Grit as developed in this district is represented by the surface actually exposed.



The quartz rock is interstratified with beds of altered shale, and also has several dykes of intrusive greenstone injected in the lines of bedding; these latter rocks will be subsequently considered.

From the great resemblance which the quartz rock bears to similar beds of Silurian age, it was formerly classed with that system; more extended researches, however, show it to belong to the Carboniferous series. It is entirely unfossiliferous, a fact which is easily explained when its highly metamorphic character is taken into account. There appears to be little reason to doubt its being an ordinary gritstone, similar in constitution to the Millstone Grit of Yorkshire and Derbyshire, greatly altered by igneous agencies, most probably intimately connected with the intrusion of the greenstone dykes.

Some years ago the rock was worked together with overlying shales of the Coal Measures, as at Tuttle Hill and Hartshill Hays, for the grey oxide of manganese that is found in the joints and fissures. This mineral has a specific gravity of 4·4, and hardness 4·0, and is composed of

Deutoxide of Manganese	...	...	...	90
Water	...	...	...	10
				<hr/>
				100
				<hr/>

The entire mass of the rock has a reddish tinge, due to the presence of manganese in a finely divided state being diffused throughout. It does not occur in sufficient quantity to render its extraction profitable, and in consequence the works have been long abandoned. The only economical use to which the quartz rock is at present applied is as road material, for which its peculiar jointed structure which causes it to break readily into small blocks, together with its hard nature, render it well adapted. For this purpose it is quarried at several places along its range, but we have been unable to obtain any trustworthy estimates of the quantity actually worked. It must, however, amount to many thousand tons per annum.

## 2.—THE COAL MEASURES.

In considering the Warwickshire coalfield, it will perhaps be advisable to examine it under three divisions, viz.; A.—*Its actual exposure.* B.—*Its extension under the overlying Permian*

rocks within the basin of the coalfield, *i.e.*, within the boundary faults to the north, east, and west: and C.—*Its extension under the Permian and Triassic series*, and possible continuity with the adjacent coalfields of Leicestershire and South Staffordshire.

#### THE WARWICKSHIRE COALFIELD.

##### A.—*Its actual exposure.*

This coalfield bounded on three of its sides by large faults, occupies a long synclinal basin or trough, and has an area where exposed at the surface of about 30 square miles. The general direction of its strike is north-west and south-east, with an extreme length of about  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles from its northern extremity at Spring Coppice near Shuttington to Hawkesbury on the south, at which latter point it disappears beneath the overlying Keuper beds of the Triassic series. From its southern extremity north to Baddesley, it occupies a narrow strip of country with an average width of rather less than a mile and a half. At Baddesley, owing to the outcrop of the Permian rocks bending suddenly round to the south-west, the coalfield assumes the shape of an irregular trapezoid with a width of about 4 miles, and intersected nearly across the middle by a fault having a downthrow to the north.

On its north-east side, the coalfield is bounded by a fault having a large downthrow in that direction. It commences at Spring Coppice near Shuttington, where it is joined by another large fault, ranging north-east and south-west, and forming the western boundary of the coalfield. South of Shuttington the fault opens out for a short distance, and re-joining at the Watling Street, encloses a small lenticular tract, bringing down the Permian sandstone, Bunter conglomerate, and Lower Keuper sandstone against the Coal Measures. From this point south to Nuneaton the fault throws the Keuper marls against the lower Carboniferous rocks, and dies away a short distance south-east of that town, the Coal Measures in their further extension southward being overlaid unconformably by the Lower Keuper sandstone.

The western boundary fault of the coalfield mentioned above ranges in a nearly north and south direction, bringing the Keuper marl and Lower Sandstone into contact with the Coal Measure as far south as



Kingsbury, near which point the latter formation disappears beneath the Permian rocks.

The amount of throw of these two boundary faults cannot be exactly ascertained. As an approximation, however, and taking into consideration the thickness of the overlying Keuper marl, it is probable that the western fault has a throw to the west in the neighbourhood of Kingsbury of not less than 470 feet, while the fault bounding the coalfield at its north-east corner probably throws down in that direction about 1,000 feet.

The seams of coal at present worked in the Warwickshire coalfield are five in number, and are named as follows:—

*Coal Seams.*

A.—Four Feet Coal.	C.—Ell and Slate Coal.
B.—Two Yard, Rider and Bare Coal.	D.—Seven Feet Coal.
E.—Bench Coal.	

In addition to these there are about twelve other seams one foot or over in thickness at present unworked, but which will probably be fallen back on when the thick seams are exhausted.

**PALÆONTOLOGY.**—The fossils of the Warwickshire Coal Measures are few and unimportant; as is usually the case, the most perfect are generally found enclosed in ironstone nodules. Detached scales and teeth of *Megalichthys*, and occasionally other genera of fish, mollusks of the genera *Myalina*, *Anthracosia*, and, perhaps, *Anthracomya*, with the small crustacean \* *Beyrichia arcuata*, and the annelid *Spirorbis Carbonarius*, complete the list of animal remains most commonly met with. The fossil Flora is not much more redundant. *Ferns* of the ordinary Coal Measures type, *Lepidodendron*, *Calamites*, *Sigillaria*, and *Stigmaria*, are the plant remains usually found, all being in a very broken and fragmentary condition.

**The Measures.**—These consist of alternating layers of sandstone and shales, with beds of coal, ironstone, and fireclay; and in the upper part of the series there is one bed of limestone, which occurs very regularly and continuously over the whole of the coalfield at a constant depth of about 50 yards from the base of the

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\* The Rev. P. B. Brodie has in his collection another crustacean remain, i.e., a species of *Belinurus* (*Limulus*?)

Permian rocks. The entire series can be divided into two portions, viz. :—

	Feet.
1.— <i>The Upper Coal Measures</i> , with band of limestone 2 to 3 feet thick, 50 yards from top of series, and containing in lower part the 5 beds of thick coal .....	1300
2.— <i>The Lower Coal Measures</i> , consisting of red shales, with several beds of intrusive Greenstone.....	1650
Total thickness of Coal Measures .....	<hr/> 2950 <hr/>

## 2. *The Lower Coal Measures.*

This is a thick series of rocks, consisting of deep red shales, with four beds of intrusive Greenstone, which have been injected into and sometimes slightly cross the planes of stratification, the shales being much altered both above and below the points of contact with the intrusive Greenstone.

The beds are unfossiliferous, and rest quite conformably on the top of the Millstone Grit, as may be seen in the neighbourhood of Hartshill, where the entire series dips to the south-west at an angle of nearly  $40^{\circ}$ . From a little to the south of Chilvers Coton, where the shales are exposed in the cuttings of the Coventry and Nuneaton Railway, they range in a north-westerly direction, through Hartshill Hays to Merivale Park.

At Marston Quarry, 3 miles south of Nuneaton, these measures roll over and dip towards the east, the point where this change of dip takes place being between the junction of the canals at Marston and Marston Quarry. In this quarry there is an excellent section of the shales, with two beds of Greenstone, the whole dipping to the east at an angle of  $15^{\circ}$ , the shales being much altered, and those lying on the uppermost bed of Greenstone being porcelained at the junction. This easterly dip is of great importance in considering the extension of the coal field under the Triassic rocks, as indicating a tendency of the coal measures to roll over and set in again underneath the New Red Marl.

## 1. *The Upper Coal Measures.*

These measures are very variable in thickness, as in the south part of the coalfield about Bedworth and Hawksbury, the whole of the thick coals run together and form one seam from 20 to 25 feet



in thickness, with only a few small partings of dirt or fireclay between them. At Bedworth, the partings slightly increase, and a little to the north swell out to a thickness of many yards. Indeed, if it were not for the high angle of dip, by which the coals crop out with great regularity, it would be almost impossible to identify the seams in the north and middle with those in the south of the basin.

The mode of working the coal is that of a modified form of long wall, and in the thick coal district the plan is now being adopted of getting the upper seams first, and then allowing the roof to settle; in afterwards working the lower seams, nine inches or a foot of coal is left to form a roof. Until recently, the general plan of working was to get the lowest seam first, and allow those above to settle down bodily. In this manner four, and sometimes all the seams were got, but generally the uppermost was found to be so crushed, that it was not worth getting, and was therefore left behind in the pit. The modern method effects a considerable saving of coal, but even with that there is a loss in coal left for roofs, and other purposes, of about 30 per cent. \

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NOTE.—*For a more extended account of the Geology of the Warwickshire Coalfield, the reader is referred to the publications of H. M. Geological Survey, including the Maps, Sections, and accompanying Memoirs. The Report of the Royal Commission on Coal, 1871, contains a fund of valuable statistical and general information on this and kindred subjects.*

TABLE OF THE CORRELATION OF THE WARWICKSHIRE COAL SEAMS.\*

	POLESWORTH, BAD- DESLEY, AND BAXTERLEY.	ANSLEY.	HAUNCHWOOD.	GRIFF.	BEDWORTH.	HAWKSBURY.	WYKEN.
A	Four Feet (called <i>Ell Coal</i> at <i>Polesworth</i> )	Four Feet	Four Feet	Four Feet	<i>Thinned out</i>	<i>Thinned out</i>	<i>Thinned out</i>
B	(Rider Parting, 9 ins. Bare <i>Sets in at Birch Coppice</i> )	(Rider Parting, 2 ft. Bare Slate Seven Feet Bench	(Two Yard (Rider) Parting, 3 ins. Bare Slate	Two Yard Rider Parting, 9 ft. Bare Slate Seven Feet	Two Yard Parting, 1 ft. Rider Bare Slate Seven Feet	Two Yard Parting, 7 ins. Rider Parting, 1 ft. Bare Ell Parting, 1 ft. Slate Seven Feet Bench ( <i>In three divisions</i> )	Two Yard Parting, 1 ft. Rider Bare Ell Parting, 10 ft. Slate
C	Slate	Slate	Slate	Slate	Slate	Slate	Slate
D	Seven Feet	Seven Feet	Seven Feet	Seven Feet	Seven Feet	Seven Feet	Seven Feet
E	Bench	Bench	Bench	Bench	Bench	Bench	Bench

\* This Table is given to show the extremely variable nature of the seams at various points in the northern, central, and southern districts of the coalfield.



From the above table, it will be seen that, although the number of thick workable coals remains about the same, yet their actual position in the series varies greatly. Thus, at the Wyken Colliery, the *five* coals worked are really the representatives of the *two* coals *B.* and *C.*

Commencing at the Wyken Colliery, near Foleshill, the coals are found running together, the thickest partings being between the *Two Yard* and *Rider* coals, where it is about one foot, and between the *Ell* and *Slate* coals ten feet, in each case the parting being formed of fireclay. At this point the outcrop of the coals is hidden beneath the overlying Lower Keuper Sandstones, which rest unconformably on the Coal Measures and Permian rocks.

At Hawksbury Colliery, a little to the north, there is great variation in the thickness of the partings, the coals having, as it were, closed together. The distance between the *Two Yard* and *Rider* is here seven inches, while the latter is divided from the *Bare* coal by a one-foot parting, and which, although varying greatly in thickness, is found to separate these two coals throughout their entire known range to the northward. The parting between the *Ell* and *Slate* coals has here diminished to one foot, and they are further divided by their divisions of clay or smut into two beds each.

As far north as Bedworth, indeed, the same irregularities continually prevail, both with regard to the coals and partings. It is a most peculiar district, and a state of things existing at any particular colliery is not at all true of another a mile away.

In the neighbourhood of Hawksbury, the coals emerge from under the Lower Keuper Sandstone, and a little to the north of Bedworth the lines of outcrop become spread out on the surface, in consequence of the great and rapid thickening which now takes place in the intermediate measures. They maintain, however, a marked parallelism for a considerable distance to the north-west, and can be traced with great accuracy in a continuous line to the neighbourhood of Oldbury, where they abut against a north and south fault, having a downthrow to the west of 19 yards.

In consequence of this fault, the outcrop of the coals in their range northward is shifted considerably to the north, the basset

edge being again found crossing Monks Park, and on through Baxterley Common to Baddesley. From here the strike of the beds is nearly due north, and the coals are finally cut off by the great boundary fault of the coalfield, a little to the east of the Trent Valley Railway, close to Polesworth Station.

In this latter part of the coalfield there are two points of interest to be considered : first, the dying out of the *Rider* and *Bare* coal at Birch Coppice, as mentioned in the list of coals on page 145 ; and, secondly, the anticlinal formed by the measures south of Polesworth, which causes the coals to set in again with an easterly dip.

The *Rider* and *Bare* coal, which has been continuous from the most southerly known point of the coalfield, appears to die out quite abruptly from failure of coal-producing material. Its place, however, seems to be taken by dark fireclay, and it may be that the coal was originally laid down and afterwards denuded out by a local current which deposited the fire-clay. In this case the coal might be found to set in again further to the north, if the coalfield be continuous under the Trias.

The anticlinal, near Polesworth, which brings the coals in again to the east, is of the greatest importance in considering the probability of the further extension of the coalfield under newer deposits, as taken in connection with the easterly dip of the Lower Coal Measures at Marston Quarry, mentioned at page 146, it seems to indicate an axis of movement repeating to the east the conditions obtaining on the west.

The coals on the easterly dip are much shattered and broken through by small faults, in consequence of which they are nowhere worked.

The angle of dip along the line we have been tracing from Wyken to Polesworth, is very high to the west, in consequence of the axis of great disturbance which is here closely followed. In the colliery workings near Wyken, where the coals crop up against the Lower Keuper Sandstone, the dip is west  $29^{\circ}$ . And this angle is pretty generally preserved as far north as Haunchwood, where the dip is south-west at an angle of  $30^{\circ}$ . Hence, northward it flattens, until the outcrop approaches the boundary fault, when the measures begin to be much broken and disturbed, as may be seen in the



railway cutting near Polesworth Station, where the strata dip west at an average angle of  $48^{\circ}$ . This high rate of dip along the eastern boundary of the coalfield does not, however, continue for any great distance to the deep, as the beds rapidly flatten, and, no doubt, in the centre of the trough will be found to be either horizontally, or, perhaps, more probably, in a series of large rolls, and, as we shall shortly see, eventually rise to the surface on the western side of the coalfield.

In consequence of this trough-like form into which the strata are thrown, the depth from the surface to the workable coals over the actually exposed coal measures will be greatest along a line drawn from Shuttington through Dadley Hill, midway between Polesworth and Wilnecote, to Freasley. At the north end of this synclinal line, the depth to the *Seven Feet* coal, under Shuttington Church, is about 700 feet, and at its southern extremity this increases to nearly 900 feet, at the point where it disappears under the Permian, south of Freasley.

Turning now to the western side of the coal field, the most northerly point at which the coals are exposed is at the intersection of the Watling Street with the high road from Tamworth at Two Gates. Here the beds are very much disturbed and shattered, owing to the proximity of several faults, one of which ranging nearly east and west across the basin, cuts off the outcrop of the coals to the north. From this fault they strike due south to the brook south-west of Slateley, at which point they are again cut off by the boundary fault of the coalfield, throwing to the west about 470 feet. The overlying Coal Measures strata can be traced as far south as Flanders Hall, where they disappear beneath the red Permian Sandstones.

Along this western margin of the coalfield, the beds are tilted up at an extremely high angle, the dip being nearly due east from  $60^{\circ}$  to over  $80^{\circ}$ , as may be seen where they are exposed in the cuttings of the Midland Railway. There appears to be no doubt that, as on the east side of the basin, the disturbed state of the strata is intimately connected with the intrusion of Greenstone, a mass of which, similar in character to that of Hartshill, forms the eminence upon which stands the village of Dosthill. Here also the strata in con-

tact with the trap-rock are much altered, “and the lowest coal, the crop of which runs along the east side of the trap at Dosthill, was found to be burnt and rendered useless in its immediate vicinity.”

To the north of the transverse fault above mentioned, the coals do not crop out, their depth from the surface, however, is well known, and they are largely worked at Glascote, Polesworth, and Wilnecote. Between Glascote and the boundary fault, two smaller faults have been proved in the workings of that colliery and at Kettlebrook, that nearest the boundary fault throwing down to the east about 18 yards, the other 26 yards to the west.

The measures in the upper part of the series attain a thickness of about 1,000 feet, and present no special features of interest, with the exception of the thin band of limestone, which occurs with great regularity over the whole of the coalfield at a depth of about 150 feet from the base of the Permian rocks. This band, which is generally known as the *Spirorbis* limestone, is from two to three feet in thickness, and takes its name from a small serpula *Spirorbis carbonarius*, that is almost universally found in it. The limestone was formerly much worked round its line of outcrop for agricultural and other purposes, but the introduction of railways, and the facility with which lime of a superior quality can in consequence be supplied, has caused the old workings to be entirely abandoned. The pits, however, from which the limestone was wrought are plentiful, and occasionally traces of the old kilns may be found.

At Arley, in the centre of the tract occupied by the Permian rocks, a small inlier of Coal Measures, with *Spirorbis* limestone, makes its appearance. On its eastern side it dips under the Permian at a small angle, and on the west it is bounded by a prolongation of the 19 yards fault proved at Oldbury (see page 154). The amount of throw of this fault at Arley is not known, but from the fact that it brings down the Permian strata against the beds below the limestone, it is clear that it must have increased enormously, and cannot be much less than 170 yards as a maximum.

The measures above the limestone consist chiefly of shale, with a few variable beds of sandstone, upon which rest unconformably the lowest beds of the Lower Permian formation.

**Collieries.**—The number of collieries at present in work in



the Warwickshire coalfield is 19, as shown in the following list, which also gives the names of most of the collieries either formerly or at present winning the thick coals, and excluding mere basset or surface pits :—

## WARWICKSHIRE COALFIELD.

## TABLE SHOWING OLD AND PRESENT COLLIERIES.

*Those in italics are no longer working.*

Amington .. .. .	Tamworth	<i>Baxterley</i> .. .. .	Atherston
<i>Waverton or Warton, near</i>	Polesworth*	<i>Oldbury</i> .. .. .	Atherston
Glascote .. .. .	Tamworth	<i>Ansley</i> .. .. .	Nuneaton
Kettlebrook .. .. .	Tamworth	<i>Astley, Barncroft</i> ..	Nuneaton
<i>Park</i> .. .. .	Tamworth	Nuneaton .. .. .	Nuneaton
Tame Valley .. .. .	Tamworth	Haunchwood .. .. .	Nuneaton
Hockley Hall .. .. .	Tamworth	Peel.. .. .	Nuneaton
<i>Slateley</i> .. .. .	Tamworth	Swan Lane .. .. .	Nuneaton
Wilnecote .. .. .	Tamworth	Griff.. .. .	Nuneaton
Pooley Hall .. .. .	Tamworth	Bedworth Charity .. ..	Bedworth
<i>Polesworth, north of</i> ..	Tamworth	<i>Bedworth</i> .. .. .	Bedworth
<i>Polesworth, east of</i> ..	Tamworth	Exhall .. .. .	Coventry
Polesworth, Whitehouse...	Tamworth	Hawkesbury .. .. .	Coventry
<i>Hill Top, Baddesley</i> ..	Atherstone	<i>Victoria</i> .. .. .	Coventry
<i>Baddesley Common</i> ..	Atherstone	Wyken .. .. .	Coventry
Speedwell, Baddesley ..	Atherstone	Wyken, Craven pit.. ..	Coventry

**Faults.**—The following is a list of the chief Faults affecting the coalfield, with their general range, and, where known, the direction and amount of throw :—

- 1.—The western boundary fault ranging from the extreme north of the county at Seckington, south-west of Fazeley, thence nearly south of Kingsbury, Nether Whitacre, and Maxtoke to near Berkeswell, at which point it dies out. This fault throws down to the west, with a probable amount in the neighbourhood of Kingsbury of 160 yards.
- 2.—The eastern boundary fault, branching from the last mentioned at Spring Coppice, near Shuttington, ranging south-west to a little north of Bramcote Hall, where it bifurcates, reuniting at the Watling Street, north of Grendon Wood. Hence it ranges south-eastwardly by Atherston and Nuneaton to the turnpike road, a short distance beyond the old Attleborough quarries, where it appears to die out as a low anticlinal. This fault is estimated to throw down to the north-east at Shuttington, about 330 yards. Along the eastern side, between Atherston and Nuneaton, its amount is unknown, as there is not sufficient evidence to prove the existence or otherwise of the Permian or Bunter beds under the Keuper Marl, there brought down against the lower carboniferous strata.
- 3.—The Glascote fault, ranging from that place parallel to

\* FAREY—"General View of the Agriculture and Minerals of Derbyshire."

the western boundary fault, to Two Gates on the Watling Street, where it is cut off by a fault ranging east and west. The Glascote fault was proved at Kettlebrook Colliery, and some troubled ground east of the old Park Colliery, gives another point on it. The throw was found to be east 18 yards.

- 4.—The Kettlebrook fault parallel to the east, and throwing down to the west 26 yards, was proved at the Kettlebrook and Glascote Collieries.
- 5.—A fault referred to above, ranging nearly east and west from Two Gates by Callas to Polesworth, where it joins the eastern boundary fault. The evidence for this line of disturbance is rather obscure: on the west the outcrops of the coals at Two Gates are cut off to the north; in the centre of the basin at Callas is a small outlier of Permian strata, bounded on the south by a fault; while to the east of the colliery workings, at Polesworth, there is troubled and faulted ground which may possibly be connected with the other points, and so form a continuous fault, cutting off the northern end of the coalfield. It throws down to the north, but owing to the unconformity of the Permian outlier, and the absence of workings or continuous sections, no estimate can be formed of its amount, which is probably however not large.
- 6.—The last fault, which it will be necessary to mention as affecting the Coal Measures to any extent, is that mentioned at page 152, as having been proved at Oldbury. This fault is believed to be continuous with that bounding the inlier of Coal Measures at Arley Wood. If so, it has a down throw to the west of 19 yards at Oldbury, increasing to about 170 yards at Arley. The general direction is a little west of south.

In order that this work may be of permanent utility the following table is given for reference:—

TABLE OF THE NUMBER OF COLLIERIES AND THE PRODUCTION OF COAL IN EACH YEAR FROM 1854 To 1872.

YEAR.	NUMBER OF COLLIERIES.		PRODUCTION IN TONS.	YEAR.	NUMBER OF COLLIERIES.		PRODUCTION IN TONS.
1854	.....	15	..... 255,000	1864	.....	16	..... 754,000
1855	.....	17	..... 262,000	1865	.....	16	..... 859,000
1856	.....	16	..... 335,000	1866	.....	15	..... 775,000
1857	.....	16	..... 398,000	1867	.....	15	..... 880,850
1858	.....	17	..... 356,500	1868	.....	16	..... 624,859
1859	.....	17	..... 355,750	1869	.....	16	..... 650,700
1860	.....	17	..... 545,000	1870	.....	18	..... 647,540
1861	.....	16	..... 647,000	1871	.....	18	..... 723,600
1862	.....	16	..... 678,000	1872	.....	19	..... 880,000
1863	.....	17	..... 685,500				



**Consumption of Coal.**—It has been estimated that the amount of coal consumed for domestic purposes is about 43 per cent. of the whole production, the remainder, equalling 57 per cent., being used in manufactures. Of the entire quantity of coal raised about 40 per cent. is taken out of the district by the two great railway systems intersecting the coalfield, and distributed over an area stretching from Skipton to Brighton and Dover on the north and south, and from Cambridge to Birmingham on the east and west.

**Coal worked and unworked.**—The exhaustive investigations of the Royal Commission on Coal 1866-1871 have resulted in the following determinations as to the quantity of coal worked and unworked in the Warwickshire coalfield. All seams attaining a thickness of one foot or over are included in the calculation, and the whole lie at a depth of less than 3,000 feet. In the actually exposed Coal Measures outside the Permian there is an estimated quantity of 880,033,153 tons, of which 809,730,113 yet remain unworked. After making deductions for coal left as boundary pillars, supports for building, wasted in working, and that rendered worthless by faults, there remains a nett quantity of 455,473,182 tons available for consumption. In the proved sub-Permian district there remain 5,652,512 tons unworked, leaving, after the necessary deductions, 3,179,532 tons available, making, with the former quantity, 458,652,714 tons, which may be safely calculated upon. This, at the present rate of consumption, would last for 520 years.

**Ironstone.**—In many of the beds of shale, and occurring also in bands, are large deposits of ironstone nodules. known as Clay-band or Argillaceous carbonate. The nodules are of large size, and occur chiefly between the Slate, Seven Feet, and Bench coals, and are largely worked at Bedworth and other mines. The metal is not reduced in the neighbourhood, but is chiefly sent in the raw state, we believe, into South Staffordshire.

We give the estimated quantity of ore raised, together with its value for the three years ending 1872 :—

TABLE OF THE PRODUCTION OF IRONSTONE.

YEAR.	QUANTITY.	ESTIMATED VALUE.
	Tons.	£
1870	17,500	6,125
1871	34,075	15,570
1872	43,375	16,246

*B.—The extension of the Coalfield under the contiguous Permian rocks.*

We have seen that on its eastern side the Coal Measures are highly inclined, and dip to the west at a continually decreasing angle, finally disappearing under the superior Permian beds. To the

south, between Bedworth and Wyken, the coals coalesce and pass under the Lower Keuper Sandstone, which lies unconformably upon both Coal Measures and Permian, while the unconformity between these two formations increases, and is here very marked. Again, in the centre of the basin, at Arley Wood, the upper measures with *Spirorbis* limestone appear with an easterly dip, immediately cut off by a fault throwing down to the west. Thence to the western boundary fault the presence of the coals is rendered certain by the regular trough-like form of the measures where exposed north of the Permian outcrop.

Consequently there is no reason to doubt the existence of productive Coal Measures north and east of a line drawn from Maxtoke, through Corley, to a point about 2 miles south of Coventry. To the south and west of this district the productive Coal Measures probably abut upon a bank of Silurian or other old rocks, and in consequence thin out altogether.

The greatest depth over this area will probably be about 2,000 feet to the lowest workable coal, thence gradually shallowing to the outcrop on the north and east. At Arley Wood the depth to the Four Feet coal from the surface of the ground will be about 500 feet, and immediately west of the fault about 950 feet. In the middle of the trough, between Arley Wood and the western boundary fault, the depth to the same coal under Daw Mill may be estimated at about 1,500 feet. To the south, under Corley Church, the depth to the first workable coal seam will be about 1,450 feet.

The area just considered, overlaid by the Permian formation, comprises about 73 square miles, and deducting the proved sub-Permian coal, together with 40 per cent. for waste in working and other losses, gives an estimated available amount of 2,165,000,000 tons, being rather more than four times the quantity existing in the proved coalfield.

*C.—The extension under newer deposits and possible continuity with adjacent Coalfields.*

*To the West.*—At the south end of the South Staffordshire Coalfields several coals, which further north are widely separated, here run together and form what is known as the *Ten-yard* or *Thick* seam. It is also well known that at the extreme south of the field this coal is absent, having thinned out on a bank of Silurian rocks against which the Coal Measures abut. These Silurian rocks range underground due north, eventually appearing at the surface in the neighbourhood of Walsall. Along this line the Silurian strata rise against the base of the overlying Permian beds, and form the boundary of the Coalfield, the Coal measures, with the *Thick* Coal, setting in immediately to the west with a westerly dip. Permian strata abut against the Silurians in the neighbourhood of Walsall with an easterly dip, and are overlaid by the Pebble Beds, Upper Bunter Sandstone, and Lower Keuper Sandstone and Marl. It is,



therefore, inferred with great probability that in the district bounded on the west by the South Staffordshire Coalfield, on the north by a line drawn from the Silurian rocks at Walsall to near Fazeley, and on the east from the latter point through Great Packington and Meriden, to a short distance south of Coventry, the productive Coal Measures will be entirely absent. Close to the western boundary fault of the Warwickshire Coalfield however, and for some distance immediately south of Kingsbury, it is probable that a narrow strip of measures containing the coals known at Glascote and Wilnecote will be caught in as it were between the fault and the bank of older rocks. The evidence for this is found in the north and south strike with easterly dip of the coals where cut off by the boundary fault north of Kingsbury. There being no reason to doubt the continued basin-shaped form of the Coal Measures on the down-throw side of the fault, we may fairly assume their rise to the west until cut off by the bank of the old rocks, probably immediately beneath the river Tame. On this supposition there will be an area of about five square miles containing available coals, with an estimated quantity of 150,000,000 tons. Permian rocks may partly underlie the Trias, and the greatest depth from the surface to the Coal Measures will be about 500 feet.

It is possible that over the area we have been considering, between Walsall and Coventry, rolls or depressions in the Silurian or other old rocks may cause the productive Coal Measures to set in again. As, however, the whole district is covered by newer deposits, and there is an entire absence of data on which to base such reasoning, it is best to consider it as entirely unproductive.

*To the East.*—We have seen that near Polesworth the workable coals roll over and abut against the boundary fault with an easterly dip; also that at Marston Quarry, south of Nuneaton, the lower Coal Measures shales, with intrusive Greenstone, dip to the east at an angle of  $15^{\circ}$ . In the adjacent parts of Leicestershire bosses of trap and syenite stand out through the New Red Marl from the neighbourhood of Markfield, Grooby, and Enderby, to Stoney-Stanton and Sapcote. These bosses are believed to be a continuation at a very small distance underground of the tract of ancient rocks forming Mount Sorrel, and the elevated district of Charwood Forest. In consequence of the anticlinal axis of Polesworth and Marston Jabbett, the Coal Measures will set in again under the New Red Marl with an easterly dip, and either in a series of rolls, or continuously with a flattening angle of inclination spread across the country, until cut off by the prolongation of the Charwood Forest rocks just mentioned. These, trending south by Monks Kirby, ultimately join the bank of old rocks referred to above as running from the western boundary of the South Staffordshire coalfield to a point south of Coventry.

Owing to the Millstone Grit abutting on the boundary fault of the coalfield, the thick coals are not likely to be found for a mile or two

to the eastward of the fault in the district between Nuneaton and Atherstone. In the absence of any evidence as to the position of the coals under the New Red Marl, no estimate can be formed of the quantity available.

The following summary drawn up by Professor Ramsay for the Royal Coal Commission will express all that is known of this difficult and intricate subject: On the east side of the Warwickshire coalfield the Marl has been pierced and Coal Measures reached in several places towards Charnwood Forest. Around Hinckley and further south, profitable Coal Measures may possibly exist, but nothing is known about them. North of that region tracts of Coal Measures underlie the New Red beds towards the Coleorton district, and south and west of the Moira district of the Leicestershire coalfield. It is considered that the Coal Measures of the Moira district underlie the Permian and New Red beds between the coalfields, embracing an area of about 15 square miles. This will give somewhat more than 1,000,000,000 of available tons after making allowance for the proved sub-Permian coals.

Beginning about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of Atherstone there is a tract of country that may possibly contain about 6 square miles of coal. If so, this might yield about 179,000,000 of tons, at depths varying from 800 to 2,000 feet. It is quite possible that Coal Measures may exist further east, but the whole of that area is too uncertain for any definite opinion to be formed on the subject.

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## II.—THE PERMIAN SYSTEM.

Overlying the Carboniferous series occurs a system of rocks known as the Permian, which in England is divided into Upper and Lower. The former contains the well-known Magnesian Limestone of Durham, Yorkshire, and Notts, together with their equivalents, the red marls with interbedded magnesian limestone of the neighbourhood of Manchester. These beds are considered to represent the Continental Zechstein, while to the Rothliegende, or Lower Permian division are referred the reddish-brown and variegated sandstones and marls with breccia and conglomerate, so largely developed in Lancashire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and others of the midland and western counties.

It is to the latter of these two divisions only that we shall have to direct our attention, the Upper Permian being entirely absent from Warwickshire.

The Permian rocks of this county consist of red, white, and purple sandstones, with lenticular beds of red marl and calcareous conglomerate, the latter sometimes passing into coarse calcareous sandstone. They form the lower part of the Rothliegende division, and where continuous occupy a tract of country about 90 square miles in extent. This is bounded on the north and north-east by



the Upper Coal Measures, and on the east and south by the Lower Keuper Sandstone near Coventry and Warwick. To the west they are brought against the Keuper Marl and Lower Sandstone by the western boundary fault of the coalfield, and another fault parallel to it, ranging north and south a little to the west of Kenilworth.

The beds of conglomerate are chiefly found in the lower part of the series, and although met with in many places do not appear to be continuous over any great extent of country. They are made up in great part of rounded Mountain Limestone pebbles, but fragments of various older rocks have also been found; amongst others Silurian sandstone, quartz rock, and dark-coloured sandstone, supposed to be of "Old Red Sandstone" age. These beds may be seen near Coventry, Exhall, Baxterley, and Whitacre, but especially by the road side adjoining the Arley station on the Midland Railway. A splendid section is shown in the cutting immediately to the west of the station, where the turnpike road is carried over the railway. In several quarries to the north and south of this point the conglomerate can be well studied.

Another bed chiefly composed of limestone quartz and chert pebbles occurs about the middle of the series, and can be traced at the surface over a greater extent than any other conglomerate in this district. It is seen immediately west of Exhall, and again at Corley, where it forms the ridge of high ground north and north-east of the church. A good section is shown in the railway cutting at Radford Road bridge, north of Coventry, while south-east of that town it can be traced until cut off by the Lower Keuper Sandstone. The measures above this conglomerate consist of intratifications of marl with thin beds of sandstone.

The Permian rocks of Warwickshire lie almost conformably upon the Coal Measures, but at several points the unconformity actually existing is made apparent. In the northern part of the coalfield at Callas occurs a small outlier of calcareous red Permian sandstone resting on Coal Measures below those containing the *Spirorbis* limestone. South of Bedworth also the base of the Permian gradually overlaps the limestone and the measures immediately below. This fact was proved at the Wyken Colliery, where strata underlying the limestone were entered after passing through the Permian sandstones and marls.

The highest known beds of the series occur south and south-east of Kenilworth, and the entire thickness of the formation in this county is estimated at not less than 2,000 feet.

Although the Permian sandstones are as a rule too friable to form a really useful building material, there are many beds locally developed which attain sufficient hardness to admit of their being quarried, and are, therefore, worked in many places.

The chief quarries are in the neighbourhood of Coventry and Kenilworth, but in many localities where the harder beds crop out small quarries are found. The best beds, however, are seldom

very durable, being quickly acted upon by the weather and other agencies.

Fossils are not numerous in this formation. The following list, composed of specimens in the Warwick Museum and the Geological Survey Museum, London, will represent nearly all those at present known.

#### LIST OF PERMIAN FOSSILS.

A.—REPTILIA.*	
Dasyceps Bucklandi (Crania, jaw and teeth)	Coventry and Kenilworth
B.—MOLLUSCA.	
Strophalosia,	Exhall.
C.—PLANTS.	
Calamites, E.	Caulerpites biangularis, M.
Lepidodendron dilatatum, E.	Breea entassoides, M.
Sternbergia, E.	Wood and seeds or fruit, E., M., and
Caulerpites oblonga, M.	Allesley.
Caulerpites triangularis, M.	

There is a small Permian outlier, north of Polesworth, brought down against the Coal Measures by the eastern boundary fault of the coalfield. The beds belong to the lower part of the series, and dip south of east at an angle of  $15^{\circ}$ .

Between the Warwickshire and South Staffordshire coalfields, and just outside the limits of the county, occur several inliers of Permian. These patches are valuable, as affording evidence of the existence of Permian rocks beneath the superincumbent Trias between the two coalfields. In the event of boreholes being put down to ascertain the presence or absence of productive Coal Measures beneath this district, the best position for such trials would be on the tracts of Permian referred to.

### III.—THE NEW RED SANDSTONE OR TRIAS SYSTEM.

#### 1. THE LOWER TRIAS OR BUNTER FORMATION.

This formation, where fully developed, is divided into three members :—

Bunter Sandstone.	Upper Red and Mottled Sandstone
	Conglomerate or Pebble Beds
	Lower Red and Mottled Sandstone

These subdivisions, found in their entirety to the west and north-west of the South Staffordshire coalfield, do not at all apply to the Bunter series, developed in Warwickshire. Owing to the rapid thinning out which takes place in the Trias rocks of this district,

A.—*The Lower Red Sandstone* is entirely absent from the county, while the Pebble Beds and Upper Sandstone are reduced to very

\* Those marked E. are from Exhall; and M. from Meriden.



slender proportions. This thinning out, which has been demonstrated by Mr. Hull, of the Geological Survey, to occur in a south-easterly direction, will be rendered clear from the following Table, drawn up by that gentleman.

COMPARATIVE THICKNESS OF THE TRIASSIC SERIES  
IN A SOUTH-EASTERLY DIRECTION.

NAME OF FORMATION.		Lancashire and West Cheshire.	Stafford- shire.	Leicester- shire and East War- wickshire.
Keuper Series	Red Marl....	Feet 3,000	Feet 800	Feet 700
	Lower Keuper Sandstone	450	200	150
Bunter Series	Upper Mottled Sandstone	500	50 to 200	Absent.
	Pebble Beds	500 to 750	100 to 300	0 to 100
	Lower Mottled Sandstone	200 to 500	0 to 100	Absent.

B.—*Pebble Beds*.—These beds are composed of pebbles of quartz, mountain limestone, chert, sandstone, and other rocks, much water-worn, and from which the name is derived. The only locality where these rocks are exposed is immediately east of the boundary fault at Polesworth. They are bounded on the east by another fault ranging parallel to the boundary fault, and which brings down the Lower Keuper Sandstone against them. The conglomerate can be seen in the cuttings of the Trent Valley Railway, near Polesworth, and also in several gravel pits in the neighbourhood of Waverton. Its presence is valuable, as affording evidence of its existence in the district between the Warwickshire and Leicester-shire coalfields, underlying the Keuper Sandstone and Marl.

C.—*Upper Red and Mottled Sandstone*.—This subdivision is only exposed at the extreme north-western corner of the county, in the neighbourhood of Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield. It rests upon the Pebble Beds, and consists generally of a very soft red homogeneous sandstone, frequently laminated and containing irregular streaks of yellow and white sandstone.

The Upper Sandstone is best seen in the neighbourhood of Birmingham and Aston. The former town is built principally on this dry and porous rock, which has also yielded large supplies of water from wells. The nature of the foundation may in some degree have contributed to the general healthiness of this great manufacturing town, notwithstanding its smoky atmosphere and dense population. The rock is terminated eastward, along the line of a large fault which throws down the Red Marl against the Sandstone along the eastern suburbs. The fault may be traced from Selly Hill, in a north-easterly direction, by Edgbaston, Duddeston, and Erdington,

towards Sutton Coldfield; and along this line the Upper Mottled Sandstone is for the most part capped by harder and coarser beds of the Lower Keuper Sandstone.

At Aston, a very interesting boring has been made by the Birmingham Waterworks Company, traversing the greater part of the New Red Sandstone into the subjacent Permian beds. The details of this boring are as follows:—

BORING AT ASTON, 2 MILES NORTH OF BIRMINGHAM.

		Feet
Alluvial gravel ..	.. .. .	10
New Red Sandstone.	{ Upper Mottled Sandstone .. .. .	232
	{ Harder do. and conglomerate .. .. .	
Permian Beds. ..	{ Red Marl .. .. .	36
	{ Sandstone .. .. .	10
	{ Red Marl .. .. .	15
	{ Very hard Sandstone .. .. .	53
	{ Marl with breccia .. .. .	45
		<hr/> 401 <hr/>

At the base of the New Red Sandstone large supplies of water were obtained. In the above section, the Upper Mottled Sandstone and Pebble beds are unfortunately classed together, so that we are unable to ascertain their various thicknesses. Very fine sections in the former subdivision are laid open in quarries both on the east and west sides of the town, where the beds are worked for moulding sand. The probable thickness in this district will be about 200 feet.

On the west side of the Warwickshire coalfield, we have no evidence whether either of the subdivisions of the Bunter series exists, the Lower Keuper Sandstone and Keuper Marls being always brought against either the Coal Measures or Permian rocks by faults, and we therefore never obtain a complete succession of the formations. It is, therefore, quite uncertain if the Conglomerate and Red Sandstone continue underneath the Keuper Marls and sandstone up to the coalfields, but, if so, they are probably of much less thickness than they are found further to the west.

It has been already shown that on the east side of the Warwickshire coalfield, the conglomerate has only been found at one point, and the Red and Mottled Sandstone is known not to exist here; for we find, in the railway cutting near Polesworth, the Lower Keuper Sandstone resting immediately on the conglomerate. Thus, the Bunter beds, which attain a thickness of nearly 600 feet between Birmingham and Lichfield, thin rapidly away towards the east, till, at the south end of the Warwickshire coalfield, they entirely disappear, and the Keuper beds rest directly on the Carboniferous and Permian strata.

With the Upper Mottled Sandstone, the Bunter series terminates upwards, and there is every reason to believe that the bed of the



New Red Sandstone over the English area was elevated into dry land during the succeeding period of the Continental Muschelkalk. In consequence of this, the division of the Trias rocks into its two components is generally pretty evident, while, as we shall see further on, the Keuper passes up into the overlying Lias by imperceptible gradations.

## 2.—THE KEUPER FORMATION.

The arrangement proposed by the Rev. P. B. Brodie, for this series, is as follows :—

Keuper Series.	{	Upper New Red Marls
	{	Upper Keuper Sandstones
	{	Lower Red Marls
	{	Lower Sandstones or Waterstones.

Although this arrangement scarcely applies to other parts of the country, where the Upper Sandstones are but feebly represented, if not altogether absent, it is undoubtedly the simplest and most natural that could be devised for Warwickshire.

### A.—*Lower Keuper Sandstones or Waterstones.*

These beds consist generally of White, Red, and Brown Sandstones, with thin bands of Red and Mottled Marls interstratified. The sandstones often show ripple marks and much false bedding, and from this circumstance, together with the footmarks and other remains found in them, it is evident that some of these strata were accumulated by a shore.

South of the coalfield this subdivision forms the base of the Triassic series, the Bunter Sandstone having disappeared in the neighbourhood of Coventry, Leamington, and Warwick. It forms a nearly continuous belt around the area of Carboniferous and Permian beds of East Warwickshire, and wherever prevented from appearing, it is owing to the existence of faults which bring down the Red Marl against the older formations.

These beds are well developed in the neighbourhood of Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield, where their western boundary is a fault which brings the Keuper Marls down against them. A section of the sandstone may be seen by the side of the canal, near Gravelly Hill, between Birmingham and Erdington. Further north, near Sutton Coldfield, there is a good section exposed at Reddicap Hill, showing the passage of the Lower Keuper Sandstone into the Marls, the fault forming the boundary further south having died away. Along the whole of this distance, it maintains an average breadth of from half a mile to a mile, and has a general dip to the east of about 5°. The thickness in this neighbourhood is about 170 feet.

About 2 miles north of Sutton Coldfield, the Lower Keuper Sandstone is cut off by a north-east and south-west fault, bringing

it against the conglomerate, and a small inlier of the sandstone is exposed by the denudation of the Red Marl at Ash Furlong, about a mile and a half north-east of Sutton Coldfield.

In the neighbourhood of Tamworth the lower beds are formed of calcareous breccia, or conglomerate, and were formerly quarried about a mile south of Tamworth on the road to Two Gates. The same calcareous beds can be seen on the road at Bole Hall, dipping to the north-west at an angle of  $6^{\circ}$ , and also in a quarry about three-quarters of a mile east of Amington Hall.

Owing to the presence of the fault which ranges in a southerly direction, by Dosthill and Kingsbury to Berkeswell, the beds of this subdivision are concealed as far as the village of Maxtoke, where they reappear, and may be traced southward to Berkeswell and the Birmingham Railway, when they are again faulted against the Permian beds. About a mile north of Kenilworth Castle they reappear, rising from beneath the Red Marl. As the fault just mentioned brings these beds down against the Coal Measures, we are unable to tell with accuracy its thickness at this point, but it is probable that it would be found to be about the same as in the neighbourhood of Sutton Coldfield, viz., from 170 to 200 feet.

South of Tamworth the Lower Keuper Sandstone is obscured by the Alluvium of the River Tame, and still further south it is thrown down by the boundary fault of the coalfield, and the Keuper Marls are brought against the Coal Measures, although there is no doubt that the Keuper Sandstone would be found beneath the Marls. Following the boundary fault to the south we find the Sandstone cut out, by the Keuper Marls being brought against the Coal Measures and Permian rocks. At Maxtoke, on account of the throw of the fault being less, a narrow strip of the White Sandstone is exposed, rising from beneath the Red Marl on the west, being faulted against the Permian rock on the east. The White Sandstone, further south, is exposed in quarries in the grounds of Meriden Hall, and may be traced uninterruptedly to about a mile north of Kenilworth, where it is again cut out by the fault bringing the Keuper Marls against the Permian strata.

In the neighbourhood of Warwick the Lower Keuper Sandstone is cut off by a north and south fault ranging through the town, and which brings down the Red Marls to the west. The greater part of the town is built upon the Sandstone, and sections may be seen at Coton End, Guy's Cliff, Myton, Cubbington, to the north of Leamington, and towards Leek Wootton. Part of Leamington stands upon it, and it is exposed in an old quarry at the London and North-Western Railway Station. It has been extensively quarried over this district for building stone, for which purpose some of the harder beds are well adapted. The uppermost beds are often ripple-marked and pass gradually into the overlying Red Marl series.

Along the eastern side of the Permian and Carboniferous area



this subdivision forms a narrow strip, which may be traced from Warwick by Leamington, Bubbenhall, and Wyken, northward to Nuneaton. The beds lie quite unconformably on the inferior formations, passing in succession from the highest known Permian rocks of the district, between Warwick and Kenilworth, across all the intermediate series to the Millstone Grit, north-west of Nuneaton.

At the Wyken Colliery this unconformity has been proved, the Lower Keuper Sandstone lying nearly horizontally on measures of Permian and Coal Measures age, dipping west at an angle of  $21^{\circ}$ . The same unconformity was found in sinking the shaft at the Craven Colliery, when 63 feet of White Sandstone, with Red Marl partings, lying quite horizontally, was cut through before reaching the Coal Measures, the latter dipping to the west at a high angle.

At Marston Jabbett a fine section is laid open in a quarry, showing horizontal beds of Red Marl, White Sandstone, and Conglomerate, resting on inclined beds of lower Coal Measures and intrusive Greenstone, dipping east at an angle of  $15^{\circ}$ .

In the northern part of the coalfield the Lower Keuper Sandstone is brought against the upper part of the Coal Measures by the eastern boundary fault. In the north-eastern angle of the county it occupies nearly the whole of the surface, being only overlaid in a few places by the Red Marl.

Numerous sections of the Sandstones can be seen at Seckington, where they have been extensively quarried, and also at Newton Regis the White Sandstone crops out to the surface. At the village of Austrey sections can be seen showing the gradual passage of these beds into the Keuper Marls, and further south, at Waverton or Warton, the same beds are largely quarried for building stone.

South-east of Shuttington these strata are brought in succession against the Permian strata at Bramcote Hall, and the Conglomerate of the Bunter beds east of Waverton, by the same fault which brings the Keuper Sandstone against the Coal Measures at Shuttington. Further south, at Dordon, the same beds are again brought against the Coal Measures, by the boundary fault of the coalfield. For the space of rather more than half a mile the Marl is then thrown against Coal Measures, and underlying it the Sandstones again appear in Merivale Park, near Atherstone, faulted against the lower unproductive Coal Measures by the same dislocation.

Hence southward to Nuneaton the Lower Keuper beds do not appear at the surface, the new Red Marl being brought down against the lower Coal Measures and Millstone Grit by the eastern boundary fault of the coalfield.

#### *B.—Lower Red Marls.*

The Sandstones just described pass up gradually into a thick mass of Red and Mottled Marls, the transition of the Sandstones into the Marls being so gradual that it is often very difficult to determine the precise point of junction.

The Lower Marl attains a thickness in Warwickshire of about 350 feet, between the top of the Lower and base of the Upper Keuper Sandstone, but this is in all probability not a constant quantity, as the Upper Sandstone does not appear to keep on the same horizon throughout its range. This will be considered further when describing that division.

The Lower Marl occupies a large tract of country, extending from Birmingham to the area occupied by the Permian and Carboniferous series, and again to the east of the coalfield, stretching away to the confines of the county, or until overlaid by the Lias. On the south it reaches to the neighbourhood of Warwick and Hatton, trending thence in a north-westerly direction towards Birmingham, and overlaid to the south by the Upper Sandstone and Marls.

The Keuper Marls are of great economic importance from the immense deposits of Gypsum and Rock Salt which are obtained from them. The former mineral is chiefly obtained from Staffordshire and Derbyshire, and the latter from Cheshire and Worcestershire. Although not found in Warwickshire in sufficient quantity to render its extraction profitable, thin lenticular bands of Gypsum are of common occurrence in the Marls, while Salt has, we believe, been proved at Rugby when sinking a well at that town. In addition to this pseudomorphous crystals of Salt are very generally obtainable, and thus point to a similarity of conditions occurring over wide areas during the deposition of these strata.

#### C.—Upper Keuper Sandstone and Marls.

As this Sandstone does not attain a greater thickness than 25 feet, and occasionally only reaches a few inches, it will be advisable to describe it together with the overlying Marls.

The Sandstone is chiefly developed in the west-central portion of the county, at Knowle, Rowington, Shrewley, Lapworth, Tanworth, Henley, Preston, Claverdon, Wolverton, and Edstone. The best sections can be seen in the Canal cuttings at Shrewley Common and the village of Rowington, also at Liveridge Hill, about a mile and a half north of Henley-in-Arden, where a deep cutting has been made, for the purpose of lowering the road.

The Sandstone is variable, more or less hard and grey, divided by green and light-coloured Marls, and is well represented by the following section from the Canal cutting, now concealed, at Shrewley, referred to above :—

	Ft.	In.
1.—Green Marl .....	0	4
2.—Beds of Grey and light-coloured fine grained Sandstone, divided by Marl, with <i>Estheria minuta</i> and ripple or current marks. In the middle occurs a coarse, gritty Sandstone, with white specks, made up of small pieces of quartz and mica, which contains bones, teeth, and spines of <i>Lophodus</i> , a species of Shark; Scales of Ganoids ....	1	9



	Ft.	In.
3.—Green Marl .....	0	2½
4.—More fine-grained Sandstone, more or less ripple-marked, with footsteps of <i>Labyrinthodon</i> * .....	2	3
5.—Green Marl, like No. 3 .....	0	2
6.—Hard, workable Sandstone (bottom bed), the only good building stone of the locality, with imperfect casts of <i>Estheria</i> .....	3	6
7.—Thin beds of Sandstone, divided by Green Marls, with fragmentary remains of plants ( <i>Voltzia</i> , <i>Calamites</i> , <i>coniferous fruits</i> , and <i>fucoids</i> ). This is best seen at Rowington .....	10	0
8.—Red Marl .....	10	0

The Sections vary a little here and there ; thus a well sinking at Rowington gives the following :—

	Ft.	In.
Grey and Green Marls and thin Sandstone bands	12	8
At the base of these there is the usual Sandstone rock, though not so thick as at Shrewley, resting on the Red Marl .....	6	0
The dip is very slight to the S.E.		

A quarry now open at Shrewley, gives the following section :—

	Ft.	In.
Rock .....	0	4
Green Marls .....	4	0
Marly Sandstones, rather soft, divided by thin layers of Green Marl .....	2	3
Harder Sandstone, divided by Green Marl, varying from three to four inches thick .....	5	0
More compact Sandstone, the surface ripple-marked in upper part, passing down to bottom rock .....	4	0 to 6
Stony Marls and Green Marls, with <i>Estheria</i> .....	7	0 to 8
Red Marl.		
Beds nearly horizontal.		

The Upper Keuper Sandstone is by no means uniformly spread over the area occupied by the Trias, but owing to very extensive denudation, occurs at irregular intervals. A wide mass is seen at Preston Bagot and east of Henley-in-Arden, while patches of it occur south of Knowle, west of Withall, and south-east of Brown's Wood. The low hills in the neighbourhood of Rowington are capped by it, the lower ground being composed of the Lower Red Marl. No doubt at one time it was more widely diffused from Chessett Wood on the north to Cherry Pool, south of Preston.

#### *D.—The Upper Marl.*

This division is precisely similar in general character and appearance to the Lower. It is well seen on the canal bank at Copt Heath,

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\*The exact position of these footprints has not been clearly determined ; they probably occur in more than one bed, this however containing the majority of the impressions.

on the high road between Preston and Henley, where the Upper Sandstones have been cut through, and are capped by the Upper Red Marl on the rising ground to the south; and also near Greenhill Green, south of Brown's Wood. The thickness of these beds from the base of the Lias to the Upper Sandstone is about 250 feet, thus giving a little over 600 feet as the entire thickness of the Red Marl series.

The position of the Upper Keuper Sandstone in this argillaceous mass is by no means regular, as it is found gradually approaching the base of the Marl in its progress northward. In Gloucestershire it divides the Red Marl into two nearly equal divisions, and in Warwickshire, as we have seen, occupies almost the same position. In Leicestershire, however, it occurs from 60 feet to 100 feet from the base of the Marl, and locally at Kegworth the interval is only about 25 feet; while in the counties of Derby and Notts, the Upper and Lower Keuper Sandstones are in close proximity. It is probable, however, these beds do not represent the same Geological horizon, but appear at intervals in positions differing from each other in stratigraphical position.

The opinion is now very generally held that the Triassic series of Britain was formed in the waters of an inland salt lake, the presence of rock-salt and gypsum being cited in proof, as it is extremely improbable, indeed almost impossible, that such deposits could accumulate in the open sea.

The Dead Sea is perhaps one of the best illustrations in our day of an inland lake such as that in which the lower beds of the Keuper, at least, were deposited. This sea has no outlet, while the River Jordan is constantly carrying into it salts of several kinds. Now as the water is year by year evaporated as fast as it is poured into the lake, it leaves these salts behind, which have resulted in super-saturation, and their consequent precipitation over the bed of the lake. In a similar manner we may suppose the beds of rock-salt of Cheshire and Worcestershire to have been formed in an inland lake at a period corresponding to the commencement of the stage of the Red Marl, as well as the irregular bands of gypsum which occur throughout the whole stage; and this saturation with saline matter will serve to account for the absence of mollusca in the Red Marl. This is another point of resemblance with the beds forming in the Dead Sea, in which there is scarcely a trace of any living animal.

We have now to account for the desiccation of such large portions of the bed of this inland sea or lake, as shown by the foot-prints, sun-cracks, and impressions of rain-drops. If unconnected with the ocean, it is evidently impossible to refer them to tidal oscillations. Professor Ramsay has suggested an explanation which appears completely to meet the case. He supposes that the periods of desiccation represent the periodical returns of hot and dry summers, when the rivers were reduced to their smallest dimensions, and large tracts were laid dry by evaporation. On the return of



autumnal rains the waters would again overflow the bed of the lake, and new sediment would be deposited over the parched and cracked surface-stratum of the previous year. These changes can only be held as applicable to the period of the Lower Keuper Sandstone, with an occasional interval during that of the Red Marl, but this latter formation was probably deposited in deeper water, over a wider area, and over a deepening lake bottom.

**PALÆONTOLOGY.**—The Keuper series of Warwickshire has long been noted for the comparative richness of its fossil remains. The prolonged researches of Dr. Lloyd, the Rev. P. B. Brodie, and Mr. J. Kirshaw, have resulted in the discovery of a varied fauna surpassing that obtained from the Keuper beds of any other part of the kingdom. The following list of the Upper and Lower Keuper Sandstones is given on the authority of the Rev. P. B. Brodie:—

## LIST OF KEUPER SANDSTONE FOSSILS.

UPPER KEUPER.	{	Ichthyodorulite, <i>Leptodus</i> (?) ..	Shrewley Common.	
		<i>Acrodus</i> (?) <i>Ichthyodorulites</i> ..	ditto	
		Shagreen of <i>Cestraciont</i>		
		<i>Lophodus</i> ..	Ditto & Rowington.	
		<i>Estheria minuta</i> ..	ditto	
		Plant remains, fruits, &c. (imperfect)	ditto	
		Footprints of <i>Labyrinthodon</i> & <i>Rhynchosaurus</i> ,	Shrewley.	
		<i>Palæoniscus superstes</i> .—Egerton ..	Rowington.	
Another Fish undetermined and undescribed entire, about 6 inches in length.		{	Bottom rock	Shrewley.
Ganoid fish scales.				
LOWER KEUPER.*	{	<i>Labyrinthodon leptognathus</i>	{	All in the neighbour- hood of Warwick, Leamington, Cub- bington, and Leek Wootton.
		„ <i>pachygnathus</i>		
		„ <i>ventricosus</i>		
		„ <i>conicus</i> (?)		
		„ <i>sautulatus</i>		
		<i>Cladyodon Lloydii</i>	{	In the Warwick Museum.
		<i>Hyperodapodon</i>		
Plant remains, very imperfect				
Footprints of <i>Labyrinthodonts</i>				

No fossils have been found in the Red Marls, those met with being confined entirely to the sandstones and Green Marls.

## 3.—THE RHÆTIC OR PENARTH BEDS.

These beds, known also under the name of the “Zone of *Avicula Contorta*,” were, until recently, considered to be the lowest beds of the Lias, but have been referred by Dr. Wright, of Cheltenham, to the uppermost part of the Keuper.† They are perhaps properly in-

\* The Lower Keuper Sandstone in Shropshire and Cheshire are rich in the footprints of *Labyrinthodonts* and other allied forms.

† Certain teeth found in the “bone bed” had been previously assigned to the Trias by Sir P. Egerton, the highest authority on fossil fish. Mr. Moore, of Bath, has also done much to elucidate the history of the Rhætics in Somersetshire.—P.B.B.

intermediate between the two, and are certainly contemporaneous with the Continental "Kössener Schichten," or Upper St. Cassian beds. They may be well seen at Wainlode Cliff, near Gloucester, Garden Cliff, near Westbury-on-Severn, and at Aust and Penarth, in Glamorgan-shire, whence they derive one of their names. Here they consist of black and dark and grey shales, containing a Bone-bed, which are capped by grey limestones. Upon these come the Lower Lias limestones with Insects and *Ammonites planorbis* as a general rule. The White Lias, in descending order, succeeds the Insect beds, but sometimes, as at Harbury, the former are wanting, or reduced to a very thin stratum.

These beds have been traced across England, at the outcrop of the Keuper Marls, through the counties of Dorset, Somerset, Gloucester, Worcester, and Warwick, and have also been found in Lincolnshire, and recently near Leicester. In Warwickshire their northern known limit is at the base of the Lias outlier of Copt Heath, where these beds have been observed by the Rev. P. B. Brodie. They are not much exposed in this county, but can be seen in the south-western corner, near Alcester, in the railway cutting at Harbury, and on the line of railway between Stratford and Kineton, lately completed, and also at the small outlier of Brown's Wood, and at Stoooper's Wood, near Wooten Wawen. They have also been traced at Binton; and at Messrs. Greave's and Bull's Quarry at Wilmcote, their presence and position was proved by a shaft having been sunk through them. As the measures passed through here may be taken as a type of the Rhætic series in Warwickshire, we give below a detailed section of the beds. They are more extensively developed in this county than has been hitherto supposed, and probably underlie the lowest beds of the Lias:—

SECTION OF THE RHÆTIC BEDS AT WILMCOTE, NEAR STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

					ft.	in.
<i>White Lias.</i>	{	Hard crystalline limestone	..	..	1	2
		Hard dark slaty shale	..	..	1	0
		Hard Shelly limestone	..	..	0	1
		Green clunchy shale	..	..	3	0
<i>Estheria-bed</i>		Fine grained greenish marl	..	..	0	3
		Black shale	..	..	12	6
		Laminated micaceous shale	..	..	1	0
		Closely laminated shale	..	..	0	6
<i>Upr. Pullastra-bed</i>		Laminated shale	..	..	1	6
		Hard shale, not laminated	..	..	2	6
		Dark clay and shale	..	..	0	6
<i>Pecten-bed.</i>		Laminated clay with septaria	..	..	1	3
		Clay with shells	..	..	1	8
		Black laminated clay	..	..	4	0
<i>Lr. Pullastra-bed</i>		Pyritic stone with shells	..	..	0	1
		Black clunchy clay	..	..	0	8
		Light soft brown clay.	..	..		

*Note.*—The Rev. P. B. Brodie refers the White Lias beds to the Liassic series and not to the Rhætics as shown above.



In the neighbouring counties of Gloucester and Somerset there occurs a band of pyritous stone full of rolled bones and teeth of saurians and fishes, termed from this fact the "Bone-bed." This bed appears to be absent under that character in Warwickshire, although traces of it have been found at Temple Grafton and Binton. It is probably represented by the lower Pullastra-bed, in which, however, no true bone-breccia has been found.

The thin shales and clays overlying this bed yield a good series of the characteristic fossils of this formation, a list of which is given below.

In the upper part of the series occur certain hard fine-grained limestones, which, from their light colour, have been termed "White Lias." These occupy a considerable area east, south, and south-east of Warwick, being occasionally quarried at Whitnash, Harbury, Stockton, Itchington, Newbold, near Rugby, Loxley, and other places. They are often close-grained and hard limestones, and make a useful building material and a good lime. Their colour is mostly white, with a yellow tinge, and occasionally pink and grey. They contain near Rugby a great abundance of iron, and present a singularly eroded and uneven surface. At that town they were proved by a well boring to attain a thickness of 10 feet, and this is probably their extreme thickness in this county.

**PALÆONTOLOGY.**—These beds are not known to contain either Saurians or Ammonites, and the shells, which are exclusively marine, are neither numerous nor well preserved, being usually in the form of casts. There are a considerable number of small corals in the White Lias too imperfect to be specifically determined, which belong to the genus *Montlivaltia*.

The following list gives most of the Rhætic fossils\* to be found in the county :—

A.—CRUSTACEA.

Estheria minuta.		..	..	..	..
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B.—MOLLUSCA.

Avicula contorta		Pecten Valoniensis
———— (Monotis), decussata (?)		Pleurophorus elongatus
Cardium Rhæticum		Pullastra arenicola
Ostræa intusstriata		Placunopsis Alpina
Ostræa liassica		

#### IV.—THE JURASSIC OR OOLITIC SYSTEM.

##### I.—THE LIAS.

This formation, which occupies the entire southern part of the county, stretches in an indented and irregular line from Rugby to Bidford, near Stratford-on-Avon.

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\*Compared with the list of fossils from Somersetshire and elsewhere this is very scanty, and no univalves have as yet been discovered in Warwickshire, but the more characteristic species of bivalves are present, chiefly from Brown's Wood and Knowle.

The formation is essentially a great clay and limestone deposit, with numerous bands of a peculiar argillaceous limestone, Insect beds of Brodie, in its lower part, and a calcareo-argillaceous sandstone near the middle, with blue clay above it, and generally a loose sandy deposit at top, connecting it with the Inferior Oolite group above. In Warwickshire this uppermost sandy bed does not exist, and the associated clay bed is reduced to very slender proportions.

This arrangement of the strata forming the Lias series admits of its being naturally and easily divided into three groups. Of these the lowest, termed Lower Lias, consists of interstratifications of shale, clay, and limestone, and attains a thickness near Rugby of about 700 feet. In the south of the county, however, it appears to thicken, swelling out to about 900 feet. The middle or Marlstone division consists of thick beds of hard calcareous grit resting on sandy shale and sand. Its thickness in the southern part of the county is about 130 feet. The uppermost or Upper Lias clay division, consists of soft blue clay, sometimes concretionary. Its greatest thickness in this county is about 90 feet, rapidly thinning away to the north and east.

#### A.—Lower Lias Clay and Limestone.

This series commences with the beds overlying the Rhætics, and containing *Insects*, *Saurians*, and *Ammonites planorbis*, and terminates at the base of the sandy clays, forming the inferior portion of the Marlstone. It is made up of grey and light-coloured limestones, dark clays, and laminated shales, and, from its contained fossils, has been sub-divided by Dr. Wright into 7 Ammonite zones, each characterized by its own peculiar group of fossils. The arrangement commonly adopted, however, is to class the four upper zones together under the name of *Cardinia-beds*, taken from the prevalence of different forms of *Cardinia*; the succeeding beds are known as *Lima-beds*, and the lowest as *Insect and Saurian-beds*. The division of the Lower Lias, termed *Lima-beds*, with *Ammonites angulatus*, can be well seen at Messrs. Greaves and Bull's quarries at Stockton and Harbury, and a remarkably fine section is exposed in the cutting on the Great Western Railway, near Harbury Station, and on the line between Stratford and Kineton, where the strata are most remarkably, and for the Lias, unusually contorted. This portion of the series is also largely quarried at Rugby and in other places south and south-east of Stratford.

Taking the Harbury section as the type which fairly represents the rest, we have the following succession in descending order, lately measured by Messrs. Brodie and Beesley:—

#### SECTION AT HARBURY.

	Ft.	In.		Ft.	In.
Soil .. .. .	1	6	Limestone.. .. .	0	3
Broken Limestone .. .. .	2	0	Shale.. .. .	0	3
Shale.. .. .	1	0	Limestone.. .. .	0	8
Limestone.. .. .	0	6	Shale.. .. .	0	6
Shale.. .. .	1	0	Limestone.. .. .	0	5



		Ft.	In.			Ft.	In.
Shale (papery) .. .. .		1	5	Limestone.. .. .		0	3
Limestone.. .. .		0	3	Shale.. .. .		0	2
Shale.. .. .		1	0	Limestone, in 2 beds .. .. .		0	8
Limestone.. .. .		0	4	Shale.. .. .		0	8
Shale.. .. .		0	4	Limestone.. .. .		0	2
Limestone.. .. .		0	8	Shale.. .. .		0	4
Shale, dark grey, with brown } seam near the bottom .. .. }		2	0	Limestone.. .. .		0	4
Lima & Pecten Pradoanus. {	Limestone .. .. .	0	4	Shale.. .. .		1	0
	Shale .. .. .	0	4	Limestone .. .. .		0	4
	Limestone (concretionary) .. .. .	0	2	Shale (papery). black .. .. .		3	6
	Shale .. .. .	0	8	Limestone, yellow-edged .. .. .		0	7
	Limestone .. .. .	0	8	Limestone, in 6 beds, concre- tionary, with shale partings, containing <i>Nautilus</i> , <i>Myacites</i> , and <i>Ostrea</i> , &c. .. .. .	}	2	0
Lima & Pecten Pradoanus. {	Shale .. .. .	0	8				
	Limestone .. .. .	0	3	Limestone, yellow-edged .. .. .		0	4
Shale.. .. .		0	4	Shale.. .. .		0	8
Limestone.. .. .		0	3	Limestone.. .. .		0	1
Shale.. .. .		0	3	Shale.. .. .		0	1
Limestone.. .. .		0	5	Limestone, yellow-edged .. .. .		0	6
Shale.. .. .		3	0	Shale, compact.. .. .		2	3
Limestone, in 3 beds .. .. .		1	4	Limestone, grey .. .. .		0	3
Shale.. .. .		3	0	Shale.. .. .		5	0
Limestone.. .. .		0	7	Limestone.. .. .		0	4
Shale.. .. .		1	2	Shale.. .. .		0	6
Limestone, in 2 beds, with <i>Fu-</i> } <i>coids</i> , pale grey .. .. }		0	6	Limestone.. .. .		0	4
Shale.. .. .		0	2	Shale.. .. .		1	9
Limestone.. .. .		0	5	Limestone.. .. .		0	3
Shale.. .. .		1	10	Shale, seen in section near the } Bridge .. .. .	}	8	0
Limestone.. .. .		0	4	Shale, probably all obscured here } by grass.. .. .			
Shale.. .. .		0	3	White Lias, visible .. .. .		5	0
Limestone.. .. .		0	3				
Shale.. .. .		0	5				
Limestone, in 4 beds .. .. .		1	0				
Shale.. .. .		0	4				
				Total depth....		101	4

Altogether there are 33 beds of limestone divided by shales and clays. On the top the six bands of limestone are white, and include a thin layer full of broken stems of *Pentacrinites* and small *Ammonites angulatus* in one of these limestones. The prevailing colour of the inferior clays and limestones is blue, and the total thickness, including the White Lias at the base, 101 ft. 4 ins. One of the limestones is characterized by masses of *Rhynchonella variabilis*, and another with associated shales by *Fucoids*: similar fossils marking the same zone in Gloucestershire. *Lima gigantea* and *Hermanni*, and *Ammonites angulatus* occur throughout. At Stockton *Ammonites rotiformis*, usually rare, is the prevailing species. At Kinton the same zone, "Lima-beds," affords 32 beds of blue limestone  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick on the average, the thickest being 1 ft.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ins., divided by shale; total thickness visible 60 feet. The following fossils were found here, viz.: *Ammonites angulatus*, *Lima Hermanni*, and *gigantea*, *Pecten Pradoanus*, *Rhynchonella variabilis* in two distinct beds, with 40 feet of clays and limestones between, and *Gryphæa incurva*.

The fossils on the whole are not very numerous in Warwickshire when compared with the same horizon in Somerset and Dorset, the most frequent are : *Gryphæa incurva*, *Ammonites angulatus*, *Nautilus*, *Perna*, *Pinna*, *Lima gigantea*, *Lima Hermannii*, *Pecten Prædoanus* (a Spanish Liassic species new to Britain), *Cardium*, *Myacites*, *Rynchonella variabilis*, which occurs in a band towards the top, and a zone of branching *Fucoids*, some of large size. One coral *Septastræa Fromenteli* and one fish only have been detected, and very few remains of *Saurians*, chiefly bones and teeth of *Plesiosaurus rugosus* and *Ichthyosaurus*. *Ammonites Bucklandi* and *Conybeari* which characterise the zone of Gloucestershire, Somerset (Bath and Bristol), Dorset, and elsewhere, do not occur here, or at least have not yet been recognised. They have, however, been discovered at Rugby, with other shells, which do not occur at Harbury, and one or two species of *Saurians*. *Lima gigantea* is a very characteristic and wide-spread species, and marks this division of the lower Lias throughout its course through the British Isles. The important series of strata which succeed these are not seen at Harbury, but are well exposed and largely quarried at Messrs. Greaves and Bull's quarries at Wilmcote, and at other places west of Stratford.

The limestones of this portion of the Lower Lias are of considerable economical value, being largely used for flooring, paving, grave-stones, and walls, and for making hydraulic cement. The upper beds, which are usually of a light colour, are polished, cut into squares, and employed for paving. The grey limestones are prepared in the same manner, and likewise used for paving; hence they are called in Warwickshire, the "paving-beds." In flooring halls, the light and grey squares of these beds, laid diagonally, produce a very good effect and form a durable pavement. The limestone, when calcined and ground to a fine powder, has long been celebrated as forming the finest cement for hydraulic purposes.

There are two outliers of Lower Lias of considerable extent; the largest of these is at Knowle, and the distance of this outlier from the nearest point of the main body of the Lias is about 15 miles. The other is considerably to the south of the last, near Moreton Bagot, about three miles south-west of Henley-in-Arden.

With the exception of remains of insects and fragments of plants, the fossils are entirely marine, the species of *Ammonites* being abundant and characteristic, and many other shells occur both in the shales and limestones. Crustacea, belonging to the genera *Astacus* and *Eryon*, the latter of great size, are not unfrequently met with in the insect beds. The most common fish is the small *Pholidophorus Stricklandi*, and much more rarely *Tetragonolepis*, a very fine and entire specimen of which is now in the Warwick Museum. The large *Enaliosaurians* are well represented by some fine specimens of *Ichthyosaurus* and *Plesiosaurus*, the *P. megacephalus* in the Warwick Museum being nearly entire, measuring



14 ft. 4 ins. in length. The remains of plants, though small and fragmentary, are of considerable interest, because, together with the insects, they afford the only evidence of the inhabitants of the land. *Ferns* and *coniferae* are the predominating forms, but not very numerous. Large branching masses of drift-wood are sometimes met with. With respect to the insects, which are of special interest, nearly thirty families and genera have been determined. The *Coleoptera* and *Neuroptera* are most numerous, small beetles being not unfrequently found entire, though single elytra are most prevalent. Among these may be noted *Buprestidae*, *Elateridae*, *Carabidae*, and many others. There are also remains of *Orthoptera*, *Homoptera*, *Libellulidae*, and some *Diptera*.

Many of the *Neuroptera* were evidently of gigantic proportions, but most of the *Insecta* were of small size, and, like the associated plants, indicate a temperate climate, and are more nearly allied to forms which now inhabit North America. There are few extinct or unknown genera among them, so different from the marine fauna associated with them. As the *Coleoptera* were herbivorous, omnivorous, and predaceous, the land must have contained plants suitable to their food, and insectivorous animals to devour them in their turn. Although the *Saurians* and *Mollusks* indicate a warm climate, there is no proof of any ultra-tropical heat, and it may therefore be presumed that they inhabited the higher regions of a tropical country, such as the Himalayas, and were carried by streams into the ocean at greater or less distances from land. With the scanty record which the Lias affords of terrestrial life, the *Insecta* are of considerable importance and interest. Although with the associated plants, they are only subordinate to the marine fauna in number and variety of species; they are the only evidence we have at present of the denizens of the land, and are of great value to the Palæontologist. Their remains are confined to the limestones, and notably to the lowest, where they are most abundant.

The following classified list gives a selection of the fossils most commonly met with in the subdivisions of the Lias in Warwickshire below the Marlstone.

A.—REPTILIA.		
Ichthyosaurus.		(Lower Lias Limestones). (Lima beds).
Plesiosaurus megacephalus.		
———— rugosus.		
B. —PISCES.*		
Pholidophorus Stricklandi.		Lower Lias ' Insect beds ' Dapedius (?)
Tetragonolepis angulifer.		
(not common.)		
C.—INSECTA.		
Coleoptera (Elytra wings), and occasionally entire Beetles	{	(Insect beds generally.)
Neuroptera (Libellula, &c.)	{	Mostly wings.

\*The number of fish at Barrow, in Leicestershire, and Lyme, in Dorset, is much larger.

## D.—CRUSTACEA.

Astacus.	}	Not common. (‘ Insect Beds,’ very characteristic).
Eryon Barrovensis		

## E.—ECHINODERMATA.

Extracrinus (?)		Hemipedina Tomesii, n. s.
Cidaris pumilus. Honeybourne.		unique, in Warwick Museum.
————— Edwardsii L. B.*		
Plates only and spines.		

## F.—MOLLUSCA.

Nautilus truncatus L.B., abundant at Harbury and Rugby	Pecten	Pradoanus L.B.
Ammonites planorbis, in lowest beds (Insect Zone)	—————	Thiollieri
————— Johnstoni ditto ditto	—————	equalis
————— Henleyi	—————	textorius
————— Valdani	—————	priscus
————— Bucklandi (?) L.B.	—————	strionatis, L.B.,
————— Jamesoni		And several other species
————— Turneri L.B.	Myacites Liassinus	
————— Colesii	Limca acuticostata	
————— obtusus L.B.	Pholadomya ambigua	
————— densinodus—Fenny Compton, unusually large (Warwick Museum)	————— obliquata	
————— multicostatus—Lima beds, Harbury	Modiola scalprum	
————— Conybeari L.B.	————— minima L.B.	
————— rotiformis, L.B., found only at Stockton	————— Hillana	
————— angulatus—Lima beds, Harbury	Ostræa Liassica, L.B., and others	
Belemnites clavatus†	Gryphæa incurva, L.B.	
————— acutus	————— obliquata	
Plerotomaria similis	————— Macullochii	
————— expansa	Hemicardium cardioides	
————— anglica	Cardium, L.B.	
Turbo heliciformis	Area, several species	
————— nudus	Leda rostralis, and others	
Melania Zinkenii	Astarte amalthei	
Cerithium Brodici, and many other small undetermined conchifera	Cardinia Listeri	
Orbicula Clemenshawi, n.s.	————— attenuata	
Alecto dichotoma	————— ovalis	
Lima gigantea L.B. Harbury	Hippopodium ponderosum	
————— Hermani L.B.	Monotis decussata	
————— antiquata	————— papyracea, L.B.	
————— punctata	————— substriata, L.B.	
	Plicatula spinosa	
	Gervillia	
	Avicula novem costæ	
	Sanguinolaria striata	
	Gresslya unionides	
	Crenatula ventricosa	

\* L. B. Lima Beds, chiefly Harbury. All the other fossils are from higher or lower zones, chiefly from Fenny Compton, which is very rich in genera and species. A much larger list might be given, but all the characteristic forms are here tabulated, and some of the rarer ones. These are contained in the Warwick Museum, Mr. J. Kirshaw's collection at Warwick, the Rev. P. B. Brodie's at Rowington, Mr. Tomes' at Weston-on-Avon, and Mr. Beesley's at Banbury.

† No Belemnites have yet been found in the Lima beds in Warwickshire, but in the higher zone at Fenny Compton are abundant and characteristic; only one (the chambers) fragment, has been met with in the Insect beds.—P.B.B.



F.—MOLLUSCA—*Continued.*

Nucula	Rhynchonella acuta
Perna, L.B.	———— serrata
Pinna folium, L.B.	Terebratula numismalis, L.B.
Spirifer rostratus	———— perforata, L.B.
———— Walcotii	Serpula socialis, L.B.
Rhynchonella variabilis, L.B.	———— limax, L.B.

## G.—ACTINOZOA.

Septastræa Fromenteli, L.B., unique	Montlivaltia mucronata
Isastræa Tomesii, L.B., unique	———— radiata
Montlivaltia Victoriæ	———— nummiformis
———— rugosa	

## H.—PLANTS.

Otopteris acuminata and others, not common	A few entire fronds occur, chiefly in the lower beds
	Coniferæ and Fucoids (?) L.B.

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B.—Marlstone.

This subdivision forms a range of hills of moderate height, on the eastern border of the county, of which Edge Hill is the highest, and is a prominent feature, striking thence southwards towards Oxfordshire. The plain below to the west is occupied by the Lower Lias.

The Marlstone is largely quarried on the Avon Dasset Hills, and forms a good building stone, being of a hard marly nature, more or less indurated, of a green or yellow brown colour, sometimes ferruginous. For the most part this formation spreads over the portions of the county on the north-east, east, south-east, south, and south-west of Warwick.

In this county the Marlstone contains very few fossils, and those chiefly Brachiopodous shells belonging to the Genus *Terebratula* which has a very wide Geological range, and still lives in the Australian seas. The stone therefore is more easily worked, and is better adapted for economical purposes. In most cases elsewhere the Marlstone is very fossiliferous and abounds in marine shells, which are usually well preserved.

The sandy beds immediately below are rarely exposed, but crop out in a lane near Bitham House, Burton Dasset, where, as usual, they contain many fossils. The inferior clays and marls are not visible except in some brick pits near Fenny Compton, and along the line of railway. They are very full of fossils, and at one horizon abound in a species of small coral, *Montlivaltia mucronata*. They also contain *Gryphites*, *Leda*, *Pectens*, *Hippopodium*, *Belemnites*, *Ammonites*, many small univalves, and numerous other marine

shells. Not far from the village of Cherrington, about four miles south of Shipton-on-Stour, the Marlstone forms a line of hills, and in certain stony bands adjacent, which lie very near the surface, the coral *Montlivaltia Victoriae* occurs in profusion, being, in fact, the prevailing fossil of the bed.

### C.—Upper Lias Clay.

This is generally a soft blue clay, sometimes shaly, and now and then containing concretionary beds. It occurs on the hill above Fenny Compton, near Brailes, and at a few other places in the neighbourhood. There is evidence to show that it formerly capped the range of the Edge Hills adjacent, occupying its proper position above the Marlstone, the Rev. P. B. Brodie having years ago detected some fragments of the "Fish bed," well known in the lower part of the Upper Lias of Gloucestershire at Edge Hill, and it has been met with in situ near Brailes. It may thus be fairly inferred that the Upper Lias, to a greater or less extent, once capped the Marlstone there, and has since been denuded, leaving only the harder included limestone (Fish-bed), portions of which are scattered about in the fields below the hill.

The Upper Lias of Warwickshire has not yielded any remarkable fossils, though species characteristic of the formation may be obtained in places where the beds are exposed: especially *Ammonites*, *A. communis*, &c.

### DRIFT.

Spread over a great part of the county, and in many places much obscuring the outcrops of the various formations, occur extensive deposits of sand and gravel. These irregular beds, often roughly stratified, but more frequently a heterogeneous mass of sand, pebbles and boulders, have been divided into two parts, the older being termed *Glacial Drift* while to the newer, chiefly those found in the large river valleys, is applied the name of *Valley Gravels*.

**The Glacial Drift** is composed of the débris brought down by the glaciers, icebergs, and ice-cap, which are believed to have existed over Britain during what is termed the glacial period. It is a very extensive deposit, occupying a wide area over the county, and notably north and north-west as far as Birmingham and west of Warwick. Rounded pebbles and boulders of various sizes and diverse mineral composition, are scattered in more or less abundance over the whole of this tract. There are blocks of sandstone, quartz pebbles, chalk, and flints, oolite, some lias, carboniferous limestone, and fragments of old metamorphic rocks, which seem to have travelled from a great distance. The boulders are of all shapes, angular and rounded, and frequently polished and striated from having undergone abrasion and attrition by ice.

In some of these quartzose and silicious pebbles probably of lower Silurian age, the Rev. P. B. Brodie (*Quart. Jour. Geol. Society*)



1867) discovered several fossils, '*Orthis redux*,' '*Lingula Lesueri*,' and others, which are identical lithologically and zoologically with some which occur in the New Red Sandstone, at Buddleigh Salterton, in Devonshire. Their presence in the Warwickshire drift is of considerable interest, and may be perhaps accounted for in this way: Probably up to the glacial epoch the upper New Red Marls existed in many places, in situ, and were for the most part denuded by the various oscillations and great changes of level which then took place; and the Lower Silurian pebbles contained in it were again rolled and scattered about over a more or less limited area and intermingled with the other materials, brought from a distance by the agency of ice. These pebbles, of course, must have been deposited in the New Red Sandstone, in the first instance, at a much more ancient period, during the formation of the Upper Red Marls, now almost entirely swept away, coeval with the equivalent Triassic bed in Devon; and the inference would seem to be that this great Lower Silurian formation, which is now so largely developed in Normandy, and which has left only a remnant in Cornwall, formerly occupied a much larger area in the south-west, and may also have had extensive ramifications towards the north-east. There is no improbability in supposing that during the deposition of the Warwickshire Trias these Old Silurian rocks had a partial extension in this direction, otherwise it is difficult to account for their origin and presence (in the form of pebbles only) in the New Red Sandstone here. The fossils are very scarce, but these quartzite pebbles are abundant and widely distributed.

**The Valley Gravels** are chiefly to be found along the valley of the Avon, and consist of the usual finer sands and gravels with mammalian remains. At Warwick and Leamington this gravel contains many Liassic fossils and pieces of Permian wood; and when the Jephson Gardens were being made at the latter town, several fine remains of *Elephant*, *Rhinoceros*, and other mammalia were obtained, associated with some land and fresh-water shells. Similar mammalian remains were found at Lawford, near Rugby, especially a fine jaw of *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*, now in the Warwick Museum. There are many other places in the county where drift of this age occurs with similar fossils.

## IGNEOUS ROCKS.

### GREENSTONE OR TRAP.

This rock, composed of felspar and hornblende, is limited where exposed, to the district occupied by the Carboniferous rocks. The chief localities are in the neighbourhood of Nuneaton and Atherstone, and at Dosthill. On and near Hartshill there are ten distinct lines of Greenstone, all of them intrusive, and altering the sedimentary rocks in contact both with their upper and under surfaces. Near Atherstone the rock occurs in large masses, and from the

contorted appearance of the strata with which they are associated, the idea is suggested that this might probably have been close to the point of eruption.

The Greenstone is often much decomposed, and generally weathers brown where exposed to the atmosphere. Although the precise geological date of intrusion is uncertain, there appears reason to believe that it occurred at the close of the Permian period, which was one of great igneous activity.\*

## APPENDIX.

### CATALOGUE OF FOSSIL INSECTS FROM THE LOWER LIAS (INSECT BEDS), WARWICKSHIRE.

IN THE COLLECTION OF THE REV. P. B. BRODIE.†

NEUROPTERA.†	
Orthophlebia communis	Myrmelion
Æshna	Trichopterous
Chauliodes	Libellulitideous
Ephemera	(chiefly wings)
COLEOPTERA.	
Carabidea	Gyrinus
Harpalideous Carabidæ	Curculionidæ or
Buprestidæ or Elateridæ	Chrysomelidæ
Elateridæ	Elater or Duprestidæ
Telephoridæ	and others
ORTHOPTERA.	
Species of	HEMIPTERA AND HOMOPTERA.
Gryllida	Cicadæ
Blathdæ	Cimex
	Gigantic Homoptera

### DIPTERA,—REMAINS OF.

The Insect remains consist chiefly of fragmentary portions of the bodies and wings, the latter often well preserved: entire Insects are rare. Perfect Beetles sometimes occur, but the elytra are the most frequently preserved. In Warwickshire they characterize the lower Lias Limestones, and have been met with at Wilmcote, Binton, Grafton, on the Stratford Railway, and the outliers of Brown's Wood, near Wootton Waven and Knowle.

\* In the compilation of the preceding sketch the Publications of H.M. Geological Survey, Report of the Royal Commission on Coal, 1871, Rev. P. B. Brodie, M.A., &c., have been consulted, and made use of.

† Brodie's Fossil Insects Plates.

‡ Wings chiefly.

|| Elytra and Beetles.





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